

## Louisiana Workers Need One Big Union

### A PATHETIC STORY: LABOR IN LOUISIANA

The battlecry of the master class is "Crush Labor!" As in other parts of the country, that battlecry is being heard loud and clear in Louisiana.

Since the beginning of this year, Labor in this state has been forced to give up job after job. To add insult to injury, the State Government is gearing up to pass a host of anti-Labor laws. Faced with this situation, the AFL-CIO wrings its hands, giving the bosses concession after concession.

From January to early spring, the petrochemical workers in Baton Rouge were under attack. The petroleum business, Louisiana's bread and butter, has been in a slump for a few years, and now the bosses are sticking it to the refinery workers. Two Baton Rouge refineries have already closed, and a few more are threatening to shut their doors. This could be some kind of bosses' trick to cut pay, but hundreds have already been laid off.

In Shreveport recently Reilly-Beard (a subsidiary of Ashland Oil, which manufactures equipment for oil fields and refineries) gave the survivors of waves of layoffs a 10% pay cut on top of a previous wage freeze and benefits cutback. Hundreds of workers have been thrown on the unemployment lines by the layoffs over the last few years, and most workers are desperate lest they too get the ax.

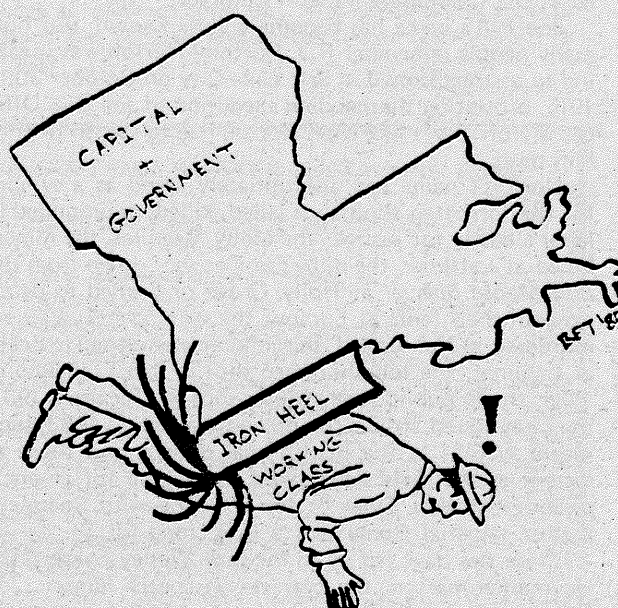
Baton Rouge city workers also face layoffs, with the rest scheduled to see their pay slashed. Last spring a major Baton Rouge department store closed down its main office, and a few hundred workers walked off the job like sheep.

Early this summer, State workers massed to demand pay raises from the Governor. They had been taking a beating, and the Legislature did not pass a bill for funds to pay them on the 1st of July, so that they had to go the weekend of the 4th without paychecks.

While the Legislature didn't see fit to pay the workers, it did pass emergency funding so they could get their paychecks on time. When asked by a reporter how he, in good conscience, could pass a bill to pay politicians while workers went unpaid, one legislator said: "I don't feel guilty about it. There's nothing that can be done about it now. It's the law, and I can't disobey the law." As usual, the law steals from the poor and gives to the rich.

A few days after that fiasco, AT&T closed a large plant in Shreveport. The company is moving the operation to Singapore, and over 800 workers lost their jobs.

AT&T officials said the average wage they would pay their Singapore employees would be a little over a dollar an hour. So Shreveport workers have lost their jobs, and Singapore workers will get slave wages.



The boss press justified the movement of the plant to Singapore, claiming that union workers had priced themselves out of a job. The high cost of AT&T telephones was blamed on the union pay scale. Nothing was said in the news about AT&T's bloated profits and management, the real reasons for the high price tags on their products.

In Shreveport the plutocrats pitted consumers against workers. But in reality, consumers and workers are one and the same. If consumers want to complain about high prices, let them lay the blame where it belongs—on the bosses who profit from the system, not on the workers.

In typical capitalist fashion, the workers of Louisiana are getting it from both sides. On one hand the bosses are driving thousands into the ranks of the unemployed, while on the other hand the politicians are doing everything possible to crush the unions.

Organized Labor, not benevolent plutocrats or liberal-minded politicians, has built our working and living standards. Yet in this "consumer society", organized Labor gets the blame while the bosses rake in the profits.

Louisiana now suffers 11% unemployment, and the rate is still growing. The State Government claims that anti-Labor laws are needed to cure unemployment. (You figure it out, I sure as hell can't.) The Legislature is trying to make the "right to work" a part of its constitution, and the expulsion of other Labor laws (for whatever good they may do) from the books is in the works.

## Steelworkers Fight Back

### WHEELING-PITTSBURGH WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST CONCESSIONS

For those who still believe that concessions save jobs, the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel strike is probably inexplicable. After all, Wheeling-Pittsburgh's 8600 workers had already accepted \$141 million in concessions since 1982 (more than \$16,000 per worker) to pay for the country's seventh-largest steelmaker's equipment modernization. The United Steel Workers offered to accept an additional \$44 million in cuts (\$5,000 per worker) if the company's banks would agree to better terms on the W-P debt.

Instead Wheeling-Pittsburgh declared bankruptcy and asked the court to impose another \$378 million in concessions over five years. That amounts to wage and benefit concessions of about 33%, or cuts of about \$44,000 per worker. The federal bankruptcy court was quick to approve an immediate wage and benefit cut of \$4 per hour and to cancel the union contract (despite the AFL-CIO's much-heralded legislative "victory" last year intended to prevent such court-sponsored union-busting). Workers at W-P's nine plants in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia struck July 21st, and have been out ever since.

The United Steel Workers insist that the strike is a lockout, since W-P unilaterally voided the union contract, and the courts have agreed—paying the way for many strikers to receive unemployment benefits. Thou-

The State Government wants to attract high-tech industries to Louisiana. It feels that a low-paid, non-union workforce would be extremely attractive to high-tech industries.

The capitalist press drones on about how the "computer revolution" is replacing the industrial revolution. In reality, it's just a set of new machines replacing the old ones, with the same old result: lost jobs.

Louisiana may become the "high-tech haven" the politicians want, but that should come as no surprise. For when workers' interests clash with those of Big Business, the Government sides with the master class.

In Louisiana, like everywhere else, the government-business link proliferates. One example is the environmental quality of this state. Illegal chemical dumps dot the countryside like stars in the sky, yet guilty corporations get off with a slap on the wrist on the rare occasions when they are caught. Capitalists set up crooks to run the place while they exploit the hell out of workers and environment. And when people complain about environmental pollution, business and government retort: "Clean air or jobs. Take your pick, but you can't have both!"

The master class is quite capable of keeping workers "in their place". Instead of rising up against this rotten system, the workers, like all good slaves, remain passive. They remain passive because they are kept in ignorance.

The working class is divided against itself. Nationalism, regionalism, racism, and sexism divide the workers. Trade unionism widens this division by pitting worker against worker; blue collar against white collar. But neither the color of one's skin nor the color of one's collar is a valid basis for division. Politics is also a way of dividing the working class.

As long as workers put their faith in bosses and politicians and allow themselves to be divided six ways from Sunday, big business and government will keep them in the bondage known as wage slavery. Freedom from wage slavery will only come when workers place their faith in themselves and organize as a class.

Ben E. Trant, X328313



8500 steelworkers are on strike against Wheeling-Pittsburgh, fighting court-ordered concessions. (Photo from the Local 1010 Steelworker)

### INDUSTRIAL WORKER

3435 N. Sheffield Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60657, USA  
ISSN: 0019-8870

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sands of dollars in relief funds have been raised by steelworker locals through collections at plant gates and donations from local treasuries. And hundreds of steelworkers have joined rallies and picket lines in support of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh strikers.

Many steelworkers see this strike as the front line in the battle against the concessions that have plagued the industry for years. Decades of no-strike agreements, protection, work-rule givebacks, and ruthless "union" dictatorship have left steelworkers supine before the bosses' onslaught, resulting in massive layoffs (unemployment tops 20% in Pennsylvania's Mon Valley), speedups, and pay cuts. Steel companies have been milking their industry dry, buying into other industries and squeezing workers for every dime they can get. Meanwhile, the bosses award themselves huge bonuses and salaries. (The W-P chairman, for example, would get \$1 million in severance pay and an annual pension of \$100,000 were he to leave the company.) Not surprisingly, W-P has asked that executive bonuses and pensions be protected by the bankruptcy court.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Remembering Labor's Martyrs  
International Labor Conference  
Oppression of Puerto Rican Workers  
Is Your Job Killing You?





A few weeks ago your scribe was on a picket line expressing solidarity with the workers who had gotten the shaft. These workers were no longer demanding better wages or better conditions on the job, as their jobs had just ended.

These were just two small plants in what was formerly a mixed residential and industrial neighborhood employing only 200 workers, mostly minority and immigrant stock. But these small factories were a branch of Teledyne Incorporated, one of the largest corporations in Freedomland, which made profits in excess of \$570 million after taxes in 1984 alone. Teledyne is one of the chief defense contractors benefitting from million-dollar contracts with the Federal Government.

The 200 workers from these two neighborhood plants were laid off permanently with less than three weeks' notice, even though many of them had worked there 10 years or more. Whereas the management personnel who got the ax will receive a week's pay for each year of service, the workers are getting only \$50 severance pay for each year worked, and their health insurance will continue for only 30 days. Chances of finding another job in 30 days, in the face of job shutdowns and closings all over, are mighty slim.

The picketing workers were making the modest demands of one week of severance pay for each year they had worked, 90 days of insurance coverage, and "Jobs—not condominiums!" This last demand is a result of the news that Teledyne is planning to sell the plants not to another manufacturing outfit, but to real-estate developers for conversion into condominiums. (By closing the plants down completely, Teledyne can get a nice little tax write-off and let the deteriorating economic situation be damned.)

The main picketing was done at the larger of the two plants, which harbored the offices of the regional management. The workers' union local apparently did not do a satisfactory job of representing them, so they were demanding to speak directly to the big honcho himself. When it became obvious that Mr. Big was not going to honor them with a personal appearance, the workers decided to carry their signs to the other plant, only a few blocks away, where a few workers were still employed.

Directly across from this second plant was a former small factory being converted into a condominium. As usual, these conversion jobs were staffed by non-union workers. Since there were no offices in the second plant, the workers who were still there took every opportunity they could to come out and encourage their former fellow workers, knowing they too would soon be getting the ax.

At a dock at the south end of the plant, some dude in a white shirt, obviously supervisory personnel, raced his car, threatening some of the children who had accompanied their parents on the picket line. Recognizing this dude who refused to look at the pickets as a landsman, your scribe was tempted to yell "Pinche malinche!" at him, but in the interest of picket-line etiquette, held his tongue.

The pickets eventually dispersed, leaving their signs leaning against the wall of the plant. These signs hastily scrawled in three different languages standing against a factory wall under a late-summer sun made for one of the best spontaneous art exhibitions your scribe had seen in a long time.

This all took place just a few blocks from where your scribe lives. The neighborhood was formerly a modest working-class area with small factories sprinkled through it. There was no great pollution problem, and in those recently-bygone times many workers had the luxury of walking to work. The Mom 'n' Pop stores that used to be found on every block have been forced out by the drive-in supermarkets, and the former workplaces are being converted one after another into luxury condominiums for upper-income professionals who no longer have to drive into town from their bedroom suburbs. Naturally the working-class folks who have long resided in these neighborhoods not only can't afford living in the new condos, but are being forced farther and farther out of town by rising taxes and skyrocketing rents.

The former neighborhood watering holes are becoming sophisticated cabarets, and the greasy-spoon restaurants are giving way to candle-lit quiche emporiums. It is no mere coincidence that Freedomland is closely emulating the pattern of its South African allies in moving those of less-modest economic circumstances farther into the outlying territories where those who have to work for a living must depend on substandard public transportation or invest in outrageously-priced gas-guzzlers. But that's what happens when we working stiffs have no control over our own jobs.

C. C. Redcloud

#### WAGE SLAVE'S DICTIONARY

PROFIT-SHARING: Theft by the boss of the lion's share of our production.

## Editorial:

# In November We Remember

This issue we are remembering the rebel workers murdered in past Novembers. *November 11th, 1887*: Anarchist labor leaders Engels, Fischer, Parsons, and Spies hanged in Chicago; Lingg suicided or murdered in cell. *November 19th, 1915*: IWW songwriter Joe Hill executed in Utah. *November 5th, 1916*: Fellow Workers Baran, Gerlot, Lowrey, and Rabinowitz shot down as they entered Everett, Washington with other free-speech fighters on the vessel *Verona*. *November 11th, 1919*: Wesley Everest wounded, imprisoned, and then lynched for resisting a raid on the IWW Lumber Workers Hall in Centralia, Washington. *November 11th, 1927*: Six striking miners murdered by state police and many more wounded at the Columbine Mine in Colorado.

Joe Hill's name has become widely known. But how many people remember R.J. Horton? Horton was speaking to a street crowd in Salt Lake City on October 30th, 1915, protesting the pending execution of Joe Hill. Officer Myton didn't like what Horton had to say, so he shot him dead.

Horton's name can appropriately stand as a symbol for the forgotten thousands jailed, killed, or wounded in labor's battle for justice: the Molly Maguires, the miners killed at Lattimer, the mine families shot down from the *Bull Moose Special* at Holly Grove or burned to death beneath their tents at Ludlow, the striking steel workers murdered at Homestead, the children stampeded to death at Calumet, the longshoremen shot in San Francisco in 1934, the Republic Steel strikers shot in Chicago in 1937, the Greyhound striker run down by a scab in 1983, such recent victims as the British coal miners, and those as distant as the serfs slaughtered for aaking for emancipation with Wat Tyler or for revolting with Spartacus against imperial Rome. It's a long, long list.

Close ties have led us to focus on Wesley Everest, the Haymarket martyrs, the Everett free-speech fighters, Joe Hill, and Frank Little, who was lynched by the copper barons at Butte, Montana August 1st, 1917. But however long we make the list, it falls short by thousands.

Some may say so long a list is a warning against sticking one's neck out. But we stand a far better chance of keeping our heads on by sticking them out and asserting ourselves.

The victims we honor for asserting themselves are but a handful compared to the millions victimized by the meekness of the working class: miners killed in mines they knew were unsafe; seamen lost in ships they knew were built far too long ago and overloaded; construction workers killed by cost-cutting erection practices; textile workers who died of brown lung; the millions who have

died in the bosses' wars; the millions who have died of malnutrition in a world of potential abundance; the children born impaired because their mothers lacked food while carrying them. Consider these numbers next time someone warns you that it doesn't pay to stick your neck out.

Who was R.J. Horton? Let his name stand for the thousands who insisted that their children should eat and grow up in freedom; who defied gun thugs and goons to maintain the solidarity of the picket line or the right to speak their minds freely; who insisted that those who do the world's work have a right to enjoy this world. We honor them best by facing up to the menace of power while we can still do something about it.

*Red November, black November*

*Bleak November, black and red;  
Hallowed month of labor's martyrs,  
Labor's heroes, labor's dead.*

*Labor's wrath and hope and sorrow  
Red the promise, black the threat.  
Who are we not to remember?  
Who are we to dare forget?*

*Black and red the colors blended;  
Black and red the pledge we made  
Red until the fight is ended  
Black until the debt is paid.*

— Ralph Chaplin  
November 1933

*Mourn not the dead that in the cool earth lie —  
Dust unto dust —  
The calm sweet earth that mothers all who die  
As all men must;*

*Mourn not your captive comrades who must dwell —  
Too strong to strive —  
Within each steel-bound coffin of a cell,  
Buried alive;*

*But rather mourn the apathetic throng —  
The cowed and the meek —  
Who see the world's great anguish and its wrong  
And dare not speak!*

— Ralph Chaplin  
Cook County Jail, 1918

## Unions Wither in Japan

In June the Japanese Labor Minister issued a report saying that the average strike time per year for Japanese workers in the last three years was 15 minutes and 50 seconds, less than the office workers in crowded Tokyo buildings often spend in one day waiting for elevators. In comparison, the average US employee spent three hours per day on strike during the last three years, and the average West German worker nearly two hours. There has not been a major walkout in Japan lasting as long as one week since public workers went out in 1975, vainly demanding the same right to strike that private-sector employees enjoy but rarely exercise.

Japanese union membership has fallen steadily since 1975. Until then it hovered near 35% for more than two decades, but by 1984 it had shrunk to 29.1%, with less than 12.5 million union members among the country's nearly 43 million paid employees.

A distinguishing trait of Japan's 74,000 unions is that all of them, except for the one representing sailors, are

organized neither by craft nor by industry, but around individual companies. These "enterprise unions" arose during the considerable labor unrest of the 1940s, when organizers found it easier to co-ordinate people at the company level than across entire industries, and the pattern took hold. Because unions knew their companies so well, they could press with great success for what they most wanted: job security, giving a boost to the idea of lifetime employment. Unfortunately, such closeness has led to the blurring of distinctions between unions and management. A few years ago, the Japanese Federation of Employers surveyed 313 companies and found that three-fourths of them had board members who used to be union officials.

Such co-optation of unions has led to the annual Japanese rite known as *shunto*, or "spring wage offensive", which these days invites comparison to highly-stylized kabuki theater. The *shunto*, whose original purpose was to involve as many industries as possible in the salary struggle at the same time, has been a fixture in Japan for 30 years. Each May Day workers carry red banners, yell ominous slogans, and wear headbands to show solidarity. Some even stage hour-long walkouts, carefully timed to cause as little disruption as possible. Of course a cartel of management representatives has determined the upper limits for pay raises in advance.

All this is not to say that Japanese workers have no grievances. Young workers chafe under traditional systems that reward longevity over talent; older workers complain that those same systems often neglect benefits such as pensions that force retired workers back into the job market for pittance. Furthermore, the guaranteed lifetime employment system is paralleled by a "part-time" system under which workers work almost as long hours as full-time workers, but for less pay and with no benefits. And most Japanese work not for big companies but for small non-union shops and factories where they endure relatively low pay, long hours, and no job security.

But Japanese unions are in no position to respond to worker complaints. The largest of the country's four labor federations, the 4.5-million-member General Council of Trade Unions, is closely tied to the Japan Socialist Party, greatly reducing the feasibility of militant action. And during this long period of labor torpidity, many unions have accumulated substantial strike funds which they have plowed into real-estate holdings and securities that any substantial unrest could wipe out.

GIVE TO THE SUSTAINING FUND!

★EDUCATION ★ORGANIZATION ★EMANCIPATION



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL  
ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

## Industrial Worker

The *Industrial Worker* (ISSN 0019-8870) is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, phone (312) 549-5045. Second-class postage paid at Chicago. Unless designated as official policy, articles in the *Industrial Worker* do not necessarily represent the official position of the Industrial Workers of the World. No paid or commercial advertising ever accepted. The *Industrial Worker* is published monthly and is mailed without a wrapper to reduce expenses, but a wrapper can be requested.

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Please send all copy to: Industrial Worker,  
3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657.  
The deadline for all copy is the 18th of each month.





HELLO! With this issue, the *Industrial Worker* starts a regular health and safety column, "Is Your Job Killing You?" This column's first goal is to help our union's members on their jobs. IWW members who have questions on occupational safety or health issues are urged to send them to "Is Your Job Killing You?" in care of the *Industrial Worker*, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago Illinois 60657, USA.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOU: A recently-published study on job-related stress reports that workers who blame stress on their employers and bad working conditions are much less likely to have ulcers or high blood pressure, and are generally more healthy emotionally. Best off are the workers who get together to talk about job-related problems and how to solve them. Work is often hazardous to your health, but unionism is good for you.

WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW: One reason occupational diseases are so under-reported is that most doctors know little or nothing about them. According to a survey published recently in the *American Journal of Public Health*, only 54% of US medical schools require any kind of course on occupational health—which is, of all things, progress: up from 30% in 1978. The average class time spent on occupational health in the medical schools that offer it is just four hours—unchanged since 1978. Keep this in mind when a doctor tells you something couldn't be caused by your job.

YOUR JOB OR...: When is blackmail not called blackmail? When the bosses do it to us, of course. After last August's "non-toxic" chemical leak (a distinctly odd way to describe sulfuric acid) at the Charleston, West Virginia Union Carbide plant, workers took to the streets in praise of their employers with signs reading "We Support Carbide" and "I'm Proud to Be a Carbider". It appears the Charleston Carbide workers had heard about their co-workers at the company's Bhopal, India plant—who are now permanently out of a job. Lacking the sort of international union solidarity that could allow Union Carbide workers to help each other defend their jobs and lives, the Charleston Carbide workers chose to risk their lives rather than chance unemployment and poverty. A hard choice for them, but a great racket for Union Carbide. The Mob should only do so well for itself.

SCAPEGOT TIME: Speaking of Union Carbide, two studies recently came out about that company's Bhopal disaster. One, authored by the management, proclaimed that "causes other than sabotage have almost been ruled

out...." The report issued by the regional union federation, on the other hand, blames poor management practices and management's indifference to safety rules—notably its harassment of workers who slowed down production by trying to follow them.

SOLVENT ALERT: Methylene chloride: Methylene chloride is used in the plastics and chemical industries, in some paints, and as a degreaser. Once known as a relatively "safe" solvent, it has turned out to be anything but. Methylene chloride is one of a group of chemically-related solvents known as "halogens" or "chlorinated hydrocarbons". Other members of this group (such as carbon tetrachloride and trichloroethylene) have been known to be highly toxic for some time. Like other halogen solvents, methylene chloride affects the brain and nervous system, causing dizziness, "high" feeling, nausea, headache, and (in cases of very high exposure) coma

WE HAVE HEADACHES AND  
NAUSEA FROM THE CHEMICALS  
WE ARE EXPOSED TO ON THE JOB



THE COMPANY RECORDS THAT  
AS... ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE  
RATHER THAN ILLNESS



THE COMPANY WOULD'NT  
WANT TO EXPOSE YOU TO..



and death.

Once you have been exposed to methylene chloride, it is converted in the body to carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide in your blood stream will interfere with the transport of oxygen from the lungs to the rest of your body. *For workers with any kind of heart disease, particularly chest pain or angina, this can bring on an immediate worsening of the problem!* Those without heart disease can often acquire it over the long term from carbon monoxide. Methylene chloride has also caused cancer in laboratory animals (in a National Toxicology Program study) when inhaled at levels only slightly higher than the US legal (OSHA) level. Other problems include skin irritation (rash or chemical burn), eye irritation, and (at high levels) chest congestion.

Note: Viton or polyvinyl alcohol gloves will protect against methylene chloride for a limited time. Other gloves *do not*, and are worse than useless since they hold the solvent against the skin. Chemical-cartridge and charcoal-filter respirators *do not* protect against methylene chloride, since this solvent is not well absorbed by charcoal or other chemical filtering agents. Methylene chloride should not be used unless it can be enclosed to prevent exposure. If temporary use is necessary, containers should be covered at all times, there should be no spraying of the solvent (since this greatly increases the amount of the solvent you breathe in), and there must be good local

exhaust ventilation, preferably using hood fans.

The US legal standard of 500 parts per million is well above the level at which harmful effects have been noted, making methylene chloride one of the many ways your employer can legally poison you. Even the conservative American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists has recommended that the allowed level be cut down to 100 parts per million, and the more-reliable National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health suggests 75 parts per million as a maximum. Methylene chloride is also known as Aerothene MM, dichloromethane, Freon 30, Losungsmittle LWH and 8951, methylene dichloride, Solastin, and Stauffer MCI.

VD TROUBLES: More than 10 million workers use video display terminals in the US alone, and a new VDT is installed about every 13 seconds. Hurrah! Beat the drums for progress... maybe. But VDTs—if used im-

properly—are known to cause glare leading to eyestrain (and often impaired vision), back pain (caused by working for long periods at a VDT that is improperly positioned for you), and some of the highest levels of emotional stress observed in any industry or occupation (caused largely by using the VDT as a spy which reports every keystroke to a supervisor).

Somewhat hazier, but even more menacing, is the VDT radiation threat. VDTs put out currently-unknown levels of what is called "non-ionizing radiation". (One group of US Government researchers, after trying to reassure a group of VDT workers, ended up admitting that they didn't know how to measure the radiation VDTs are known to emit.) It is true that non-ionizing radiation (magnetic pulses, microwaves, radio waves, and the like) is generally less harmful than ionizing radiation (radioactivity, X rays, and the like). It is also true that personnel at the US embassy in Moscow are given a hazard-pay bonus for working under levels of non-ionizing radiation (from Soviet spying devices) that are lower than those enjoyed by many VDT workers. More on this in a later column.

## LABOR NEWS IN BRIEF

### ANTI-CONCESSIONS COALITION PLANNED

Some 150 rank-and-file unionists met in Gary recently to plan a national conference against concessions slated for November 16th and 17th. Noting that the bosses are picking off union locals one at a time, these activists are calling for a common front against givebacks.

Such a coalition is made necessary by the bankruptcy of business unionism, which has failed to take even the most elementary steps to fight concessions. Noted the president of a Detroit bakery workers, local: "We need a clearinghouse of ideas: How have locals actually, tactically, dealt with plant closings and concessionary demands? Nobody knows what anybody else has done to fight these things."

Other participants noted that no-strike clauses (a feature of most contracts, but barred under the IWW

Constitution) stand in the way of union solidarity, thus helping the bosses to win their demands.

The record is now clear: years of concessionary pacts imposed on workers through union-management bullying have left waves of layoffs, further cutbacks, and falling wages in their wake. Workers have died because of concessions on work rules and safety issues. Many locals have been busted. Nowhere have workers gained by believing management's claims that if they just gave a little now, prosperity would be around the corner.

The IWW supports every battle against concessions; every job action or strike against concessions benefits the entire working class. But ultimately the bosses will continue to try to slash our wages, to destroy our working conditions, and to bust our unions, as long as we let them control industry and live off our labor. The most effective and lasting remedy for the concessions disease is to build One Big Union capable of ending this state of affairs.

### TWO-TIER PACT ENDS SHIPYARD STRIKE

A tentative agreement was reached as the IWW went to press to end the three-month strike of 4500 shipbuilders at Maine's Bath Iron Works. The three-year agreement includes bonuses, but freezes pay scales and provides for lower wages for new hires. Management's demands for such a two-tier pay scale, and for other concessions, led to the strike last July.

Reportedly some union members are attempting to block ratification of the pact, because of the two-tier pay scheme. Such schemes have increasingly been resorted to by companies seeking to slash wages and undercut unions.

### FRONTIERS OF PROTECTIONISM

We have long since become accustomed to the many articles and slogans in the business-union press that we exchange publications with exhorting us to "Buy American". We even recall one headline that went a step further—calling on us to buy Missouri. Now the September 26th Saint Louis/Southern Illinois *Labor Tribune* provides a list of cars "Made in Saint Louis" (in the midst of an advertising supplement featuring pictures of new models and promotional copy), in the evident hope that readers will choose to buy cars assembled by their fellow workers in the Saint Louis area, rather than from those damned furriners in Detroit... Where will it all end?

## Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.



WE REMEMBER

THOSE MARTYRS

WHO FOUGHT

FOR LABOR'S RIGHTS.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA IWW



# LABOR IN NORTH AMERICA

## WORKERS FIRED FOR PROTESTING UNSAFE CONDITIONS

Delco Electronics, a division of General Motors located in Naperville, Illinois, doesn't worry much about health and safety conditions on the job. Previous citations for violation of Illinois's "right to know" law regarding workplace chemicals, plus an unusually high rate of cancer in the Naperville plant, didn't stop the company from introducing a new solvent in a poorly-ventilated part of the factory.

After weeks of complaints, members of United Auto Workers Local 438 were told that the solvent's ingredients included butyl glycol ether, epoxylated polyether, ethoxylated acid phosphates, alkyl amines, aliphatic hydrocarbons, isopropyl alcohol, and isobutyl alcohol, as well as "other ingredients". Workers felt this information was vague and inconclusive: a clear violation of their contract, GM policy, and the law. Furthermore, a representative of the solvent's manufacturer, during a tour of Delco's production lines, confirmed that the area where the solvent was used was improperly ventilated.

On August 16th, 14 members of the UAW local asked their supervisor to be placed in another work area until proper ventilation could be implemented. Their request was denied, and they returned to their jobs.

Subsequently, 11 of the 14 workers were given disciplinary three-day layoffs, and the three singled out as "leaders"—including a member of the local's executive board and the chairperson of its health-and-safety committee—were fired. The union immediately began pressing for re-instatement of these three workers through the grievance procedure, but foreseeing a long struggle to get their jobs back, organized a benefit to raise funds in late September.

## BOYCOTT HORMEL

The NLRB got an injunction to stop strikers at Hormel from picketing First Bank branches in Minnesota. (First Bank owns a lot of Hormel stock.) The Food and Commercial Workers long since absorbed the Meatcutters, who had absorbed the Packinghouse Workers, who had absorbed the union that in the early '30s put the town of Austin, Minnesota and the Hormel plant there in the headlines by staging a sit-down, stay-in strike six years before they became fashionable. (One Wobbly in the plant triggered that.) In just a few years unionism changed the town of Austin from a rather bleak place to a happy one. Its family photo albums could provide good copy for a picture book on the theme "Unions: Before and After".

Before walking out, the Hormel strikers produced a six-month supply of SPAM, so don't buy that or Black Label bacon or Cure 81 ham till the strike is settled. Unfortunately, unions and non-union workers have provided the company with the argument that they work cheaper in other plants.



## DIRECT ACTION ON THE WATERFRONT

Fed up with persistent efforts by Pacific Coast bosses to circumvent union workers and standards, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union reportedly took a stand in Vancouver, Washington. A local barge company was loading lumber and construction materials with non-ILWU labor on a Hawaii-bound barge, and refused to settle the issue with the workers.

So 400 ILWU members from six locals up and down the Columbia River picketed the Columbia Industrial Park dock June 7th, entering the facility before being turned back by police. Noted ILWU Local 40 Secretary Larry Clark: "We were tired of the encroachments on our work. We were tired of fighting...with one arm tied behind our back and the other strapped up to the elbow."

Three days later about a thousand workers reportedly gathered in front of the dock where huge stacks of lumber were waiting to be loaded on the barge. Picketers equipped with bolt cutters swarmed over the stacks of lumber, cutting the heavy metal straps holding together 450 bundles. The yard looked like it had been hit by a tornado, with 2-by-4s, 2-by-8s, and 2-by-12s scattered all over. When police reinforcements arrived 15 minutes later, the pickets were marching out.

Not surprisingly, faced with this display of economic power and direct action, the large company knuckled under. Labor would do better to organize the unorganized, rather than fighting with them for control of a dwindling number of jobs in selected industries. But playing by the bosses' rules [enshrined in the (anti-) labor laws] and acknowledging their "right" to control industry can only lead to continued defeats; it will take direct action and One Big Union to win.

## CAMPBELL'S BOYCOTT STILL ON

Campbell's has been trying to convince people that this long-standing boycott has been called off, pointing to an agreement in principle to hold union-representation elections in the fields. But the Farm Labor Organizing Committee reports that Campbell's is now trying to sidestep its agreement, allowing elections in only a handful of carefully-selected fields—including less than 7% of its farmworkers.

"The label on the can or jar containing a Campbell or Vlasic product tells you certain facts about what's inside, but it doesn't tell you the truth about how it got there," says a flyer from the FLOC campaign. "If you check the list of ingredients, you'll see no mention of child labor, malnutrition, exposure to dangerous pesticides, or sub-minimum wages."

FLOC (the Farm Labor Organizing Committee) has been trying for years to get Campbell Soup to enter into negotiations along with the farmers who directly hire the agricultural workers, for these farmers are not free to negotiate meaningfully. Last summer the union sent its organizers among the workers picking the Michigan fields contracted to Vlasic Pickle Company, a Campbell subsidiary. Since these workers are paid a share (usually half) of the price received for the crop, Michigan courts view them as "independent contractors", so that the growers do not have to comply with the child-labor, minimum-wage, and record-keeping provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Meanwhile, Campbell builds a couple of model labor camps and spends thousands to build a better public image. Its employees, organized in the UFCW, take the stance that farm labor conditions should be improved in some way other than boycotting the soup they make, and tomato picking gets more mechanized.

It's illegal for Campbell Soup hands to refuse to process tomatoes declared unfair by another union; but what if there were just One Big Union?

## LABOR NOTES

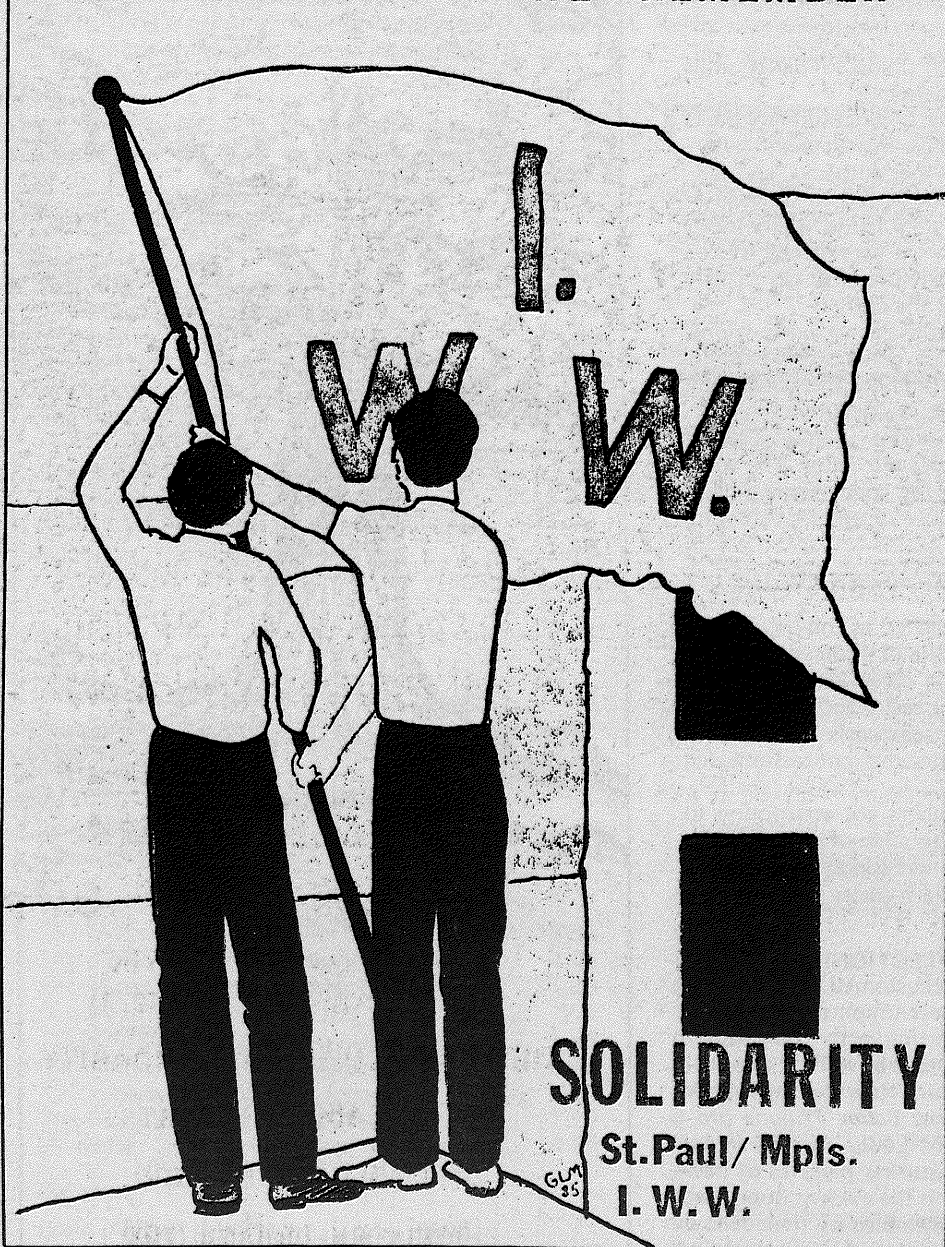
Railroad firemen don't believe it's safe for freight and passenger trains to be rushing along the rails with only the engineer in the cab and no fireman for backup and incidental duty. But the mediation board says it's okay, so there may be a strike by 67,000 United Transportation Workers this fall. The Southern Pacific merger with the Santa Fe threatens the jobs of some 2,000 Santa Fe office workers in San Francisco, and Conrail workers are wondering how long their jobs will last.

A federal grand jury is looking into the beatings of dissidents by Teamster officials and henchmen; in Kansas City Teamster officials are on trial for skimming Las Vegas gambling; and in Washington DC federal probes look into Teamster ties with the syndicates in Chicago, Cleveland, and New York.

## WOBBLE OF THE MONTH

Whatever became of Ohio Blue Tip Matches? We used to call 'em Wobbly matches, 'cuz they'd strike anywhere.

## IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER



## WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

Japanese management is all the rage right now, in Europe as in North America. During recent months British workers have been learning the advantages of labor-management co-operation and sweetheart agreements.

At Hitachi's South Wales TV factory they urged the aging over-35s to volunteer for redundancy (layoff) on the ground that at that advanced age they are too slow, more liable to sickness, and resistant to change. Hitachi paid out 1800 pounds to each "redundant" worker—replacing them with school-leavers on minimum wage. The union Hitachi has recognized has promised to take no action that will interfere with production, and is unwilling to violate its sacred contract.

The sushi also hit the fan at Hitachi's Hayes plant, where workers were informed of instant redundancy at 10-minute intervals. Escorts were instructed to remove the ex-employees within 30 minutes with "no general goodbyes". Said Hitachi: "It is always delicate when you are making someone redundant.... people might do silly things."

Quite so. Such as giving away union rights, perhaps.

from *Direct Action*



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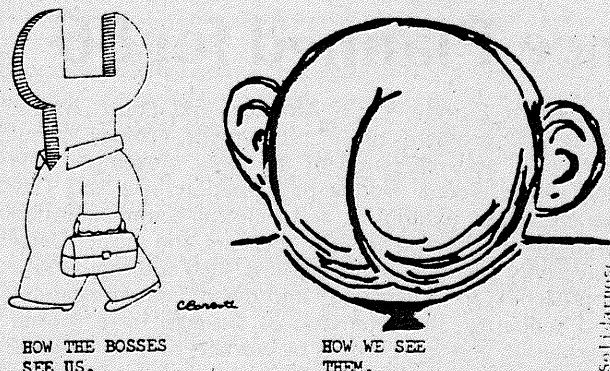
**1986**

100th Anniversary of the Struggle for the 8-Hour Day



# WORLD LABOR NEWS

**SOUTH AFRICA:** A thousand Metal and Allied Workers Union (FOSATU) members on strike against BTR Sarmcol's Howick plant have been fired and prohibited from conducting strike meetings. (Under South African law it was already illegal to picket the plant, where 800 scabs are now working.) BTR Sarmcol is an English-based multinational, and strikers' banners call on it to either "Negotiate with our union or get out" (of the country). FOSATU recently managed to get eight Kohler workers dismissed for attending the funeral of FOSATU leader Andries Raditsela (murdered by police) rehired, and got warning letters against the remaining workers rescinded. Meanwhile, at Nettex, an overtime ban won payment to workers for one hour of a two-hour work stoppage to mark Raditsela's funeral. June 9th and 10th saw the bulk of South Africa's independent unions meet in Soweto to continue efforts to launch a new superfederation. Some 200 delegates from 42 unions attended.



**ENGLAND:** Liverpool city workers struck September 25th to protest spending cuts, shutting down City Hall, closing schools, and curtailing government operations. The strike was limited to one day after white-collar unions refused to go along with an indefinite strike. The Liverpool City Council faces bankruptcy as a result of

## sound of a distant drum

Ma Thatcher and her lunatic coterie of Right-wing political sycophants, seatwarming in high office, continue to gallop downward in the pollster ratings with all the crazy joy of Gadarene swine trying to live up to Holy Writ. Hospitals close and both old and young die. Schools are closed and teachers walk picket lines, defying a government that does not care, while the young leave those schools knowing only that they face a mean and joyless future; for they can turn to those others who left school but a few years before them and have been lucky to find one day's paid labor.

Within the Western World the soil is fertile, the seas are heavy with fish, the machines lie unattended in the factories, and the fuel lies beneath our ill-shod feet for the picking. But in a society controlled and conditioned by a non-producing class who claim that the end result of any political activity must be their legal and lawful gun-controlled right not to have to make any economic return to the society they bleed daily, the old end their days in an atmosphere of ancient fears and the working-class young idle away their lives in bitter groups on decaying street corners. But that's politics, man.

When the Tories broke the British coal miners' long strike they indeed won a famous victory, for in doing so they broke the heart of the militant and active British trade-union movement, as was prophesied in these columns time and again—for one did not have to be a Cassandra to declaim the obvious.

The London bus workers, after making loud, militant noises over their pay requests and their rejection of their bosses' demands for more productivity amid increasingly poorer working conditions, caved in without even the customary whimper, and it was left to Britain's railway workers to move into the front lines in this bitter industrial battle against Ma Thatcher's Government. They did everything by the book—even to the Government order for a secret ballot. The issue was very simple, in that the Government was demanding that trains should operate with drivers only, and 11,000 train guards would be due

### AMNESTY CAMPAIGN

Charges against 79 persons of riot and unlawful assembly during the British miners' strike have now been dropped, and Kent miners have had their jail sentences reduced on appeal. The 79 were arrested during a police riot at the Orgreave coking plant in 1984, and charges were dropped after the jury acquitted other victims.

Members of the Direct Action Movement (the British section of the International Workers Association) bearing placards proclaiming "We won't forget Kinnock the scab—Free the prisoners" confronted Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock at the Durham Miners' Gala. Kinnock went on to give a speech amid jeers of "scab" and "class traitor", with South Yorkshire miners continuously shouting out the names of jailed fellow workers and calling for their release.

*Black Flag*

the English Government's decision to withdraw government funds unless the Council agreed to housing and welfare spending cuts.

**POLAND:** The Government's crackdown on Solidarnosc continues, with some 300 activists now imprisoned. Since the sentencing of Adam Michnik, Bogdan Lis, and Wladyslaw Frasyniuk earlier this year, the Government has avoided arresting prominent union activists whose detention might attract attention and stir protest both in Poland and abroad. Instead, the Government has targeted middle-level people and key activists, hoping to break the back of the movement.

These class-war prisoners are charged with offenses such as possession of a mimeograph machine, conducting union activity, slandering the Government, and participating in or being members of Solidarnosc. Some have been held for months without charges. Special efforts are being made to silence Solidarnosc's vigorous underground press. The Government has threatened to intensify the crackdown following the October elections. The IWW continues to raise funds to assist the Solidarnosc underground. Donations for this purpose should be sent to 3435 North Sheffield (202), Chicago, Illinois 60657.

**FRANCE:** French air-traffic controllers struck September 18th and 19th to press demands for increased pension benefits. It was the second strike in two weeks by the 2500 controllers, who are demanding that bonuses be included in the calculation of members' pensions.

Most international airlines canceled arrivals and departures or rerouted flights to Brussels or Geneva. Domestic flights, except for traffic between the Mediterranean island of Corsica and the mainland, were almost completely halted.

**URUGUAY:** 62 union activists were arrested for distributing leaflets calling for an indefinite strike by transportation workers, but were released after the transport union threatened a strike in their behalf. The civilian government that took over some months ago from Latin America's most vicious military dictatorship is in the

for the chop. The mystical secret vote was taken, and everyone from the Government and the Right-wing press to the vocal militant Left knew the train guards would vote for strike action in defense of their jobs, for they were already taking "unofficial" strike action. But the secret ballot confounded everyone, as the rail guards voted *not* to take strike action to protect their jobs, and Ma Thatcher's loud laugh could be heard by all of the neighbors in London's Downing Street. For that is the function of the mystical secret ballot beloved of every employer—in that the result is left in the hands of those who fear to stand up and speak. Some 245 rail guards have already been sacked for taking unofficial strike action, and 1200 more are on the chopping block.

Today Britain's trade-union godfathers meet at their national congress to iron out policy for the coming year. And let there be no illusions: The British working-class official movement is not merely on the defensive, but in retreat. For when the striking miners were betrayed, the "leadership" threw down their swords. Scargill is ready to fight the union godfathers for his demand that those miners jailed and sacked for their actions during the coal strike get their jobs back and those miners still in prison serving long terms be set free when (if?) the next Labour Party takes office. But Willis, the smiling general secretary speaking for the godfathers of the TUC, will oppose Scargill, arguing that his demand would cost middle-class "liberal" votes.

So: Will the Right-wing Engineering Workers, Britain's second-largest union, be expelled from the TUC for taking over a million dollars of Tory Government money to hold their secret ballots? And will the teachers' day-here, day-there strikes finally get their larger pay raise? Find out after the commercials. But in the north of England a group of ship workers have locked themselves within their places of work and welded the gates shut rather than allow their workplace to be closed down and all of them thrown on the ever-growing industrial garbage pile.

The godfathers will make calls for unity at seaside Blackpool, and resolutions will flow back and forth from the chairman to the "floor". But the day those shipyard workers "up north" welded the gates of their workplace to defy the State, the police, the employers, and the union godfathers in defense of their right to survive, the trade-union movement returned once more to its historic battlefield—the shop floor, and its historic weapon—guerrilla action.

Arthur Moyse, London

### GETTING THE GOODS

I'm in the orchards knocking apples and boosting the IWW as part of the Orchard Workers Organizing Project in Chelan, Washington. I get up before the sun rises, and work all day for about a dollar an hour. The fruit is no good, and neither is the picking. There aren't any other Wobblies around this orchard, and the Chicano pickers know more about this game than I do.

Yesterday the man picking in the row next to mine started yelling "*Malo! Malo!*", drop-kicked his bucket at the crew boss, and left his bin half-filled when he split the orchard with 15 other Latino pickers. The next day we got a \$1-a-bin raise, and the boss cleaned the toilets.

X333306

midst of an austerity crackdown on workers—who have resisted with some 200 strikes since March 1st.

**JAMAICA:** 1200 firemen have been suspended for participating in the one-week general strike that brought Jamaica to a standstill last June before being called off by the unions. Hospital and power workers also have been suspended, and unions have threatened a new strike unless the suspensions are revoked.

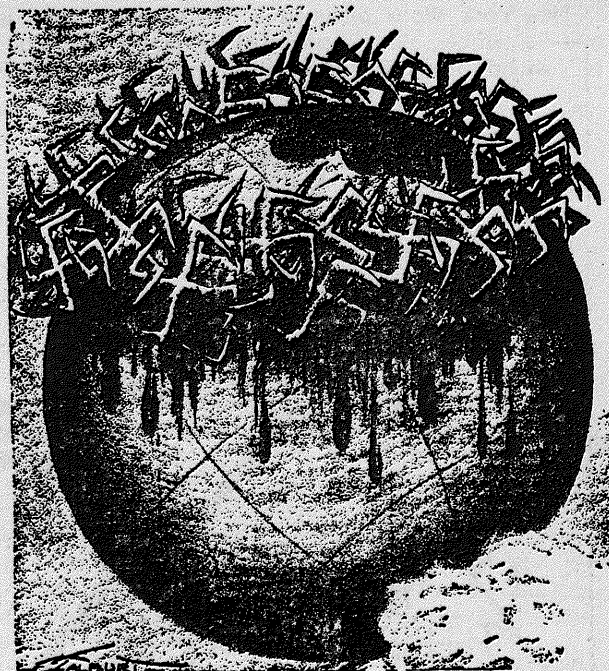
**ARGENTINA:** 4800 workers occupied the Ford Motor Works after the company sacked 33 workers in an "economy" move. The Volcan metalworks, the Banco Juncal, a cement company, a textile mill, and the Esperanza glassworks were all occupied at last word as part of a national rank-and-file resistance to layoffs. The Peronist CGT trade-union confederation faces growing militance from members unwilling to bow to Government demands that the working class suffer wage freezes and austerity plans to keep the economy going.

**PERU:** Several thousand public-sector workers went on strike, bringing the capital, Lima, to almost a standstill. The strike ran for three weeks, bringing health workers, postal workers, tax collectors, teachers, and the like out on the streets. The strike was organized by the Confederacion Intersectoral de Trabajadores Estatales (CITE) in the late 1970s after 30,000 public workers were fired by the (then) military regime. CITE was illegal at first, but forced Government recognition via militant actions. Last year CITE organized a 23-day strike. In addition to economic demands, CITE is also demanding information about the "disappearance" of several members of the union, believed to have been murdered by the Military.

**BOLIVIA:** After the Bolivian Government put airports, railroads, telephone exchanges, and oil installations under military control in mid-September, most workers ended the general strike that had paralyzed the country. Miners have continued the strike against the Government's anti-worker austerity scheme, however, and the Government recently resorted to mass arrests in an effort to break the strike, which was continuing at IWW press time.

**PHILIPPINES:** Davao City, on the southern island of Mindanao, is a welter of contrasts. Labor unionists have continued protracted strikes there in the face of increasing militarization by the minions of President Marcos's US-backed regime.

As we go to press, Joel B. Maglunsod remains in jail. Maglunsod, officer in charge of NAMAHEMIN (United Workers in Southern Mindanao), was arrested a year ago along with some other labor unionists. In late August the Philippine Supreme Court ordered Maglunsod's release (the others had accepted supervisory release earlier), but the Military invoked the Preventive Detention Act and he remains in detention.



### IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

#### CHICAGO BRANCH MEMBERS

##### FRANK GOULD

(Murdered by Philippine Secret Police October 1974)

##### FRANK TERRUGI

(Machine-gunned to death by Chilean fascists September 1973)

#### BUILD WORLD LABOR SOLIDARITY

##### CHICAGO GENERAL

##### MEMBERSHIP BRANCH

3435 North Sheffield (202)  
Chicago, Illinois 60657



# Around Our Union

ANN ARBOR: The People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch reports that the bosses are bringing in a new general manager, Vince Ciccarelli, to oversee the Warehouse and five other Midwestern warehouses. Ciccarelli is reportedly a fierce opponent of unions and workers' self-management, and is trying to block growing sentiment for unionization in other warehouses. Contacts between workers at the six warehouses began through truck drivers, and our fellow workers are considering the prospects for expanding their organizing campaign in response to this latest anti-union push. Meanwhile, the Job Branch has just elected a new negotiating team to re-negotiate wages, and the union will be seeking significant boosts in wages and benefits and a shorter probationary period for new hires.

CHICAGO: Local Wobs have continued picketing and leafletting local British offices in support of amnesty for imprisoned and blacklisted British miners. And Wobs joined pickets at the Federal Building and the Philippine Consulate in solidarity with Philippine workers, and helped distribute leaflets to high-school students urging resistance to the draft and military intervention.

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS: IWW General Defense Committee Secretary Arthur Miller and Carlos Cortez of the *Industrial Worker* editorial collective were among the speakers at a Leonard Peltier defense rally on September 7th. The GDC has been active in the defense of this political prisoner (see article on Page 4 of last issue), whose petition for a new trial was recently heard by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. FW Cortez's talk tied Peltier's case to the IWW trials and the prosecution of Magon. Petitions supporting Peltier's new trial bid are available from the IWW or the GDC.

NEW YORK: The Northeast Regional gathering of August 9th through 11th, hosted by the New York IWW, went very well. The participants ate outdoors in the woodlands, near a giant stone barbecue pit built by FWs Louis and Paul Poulos for the occasion. Evenings were spent recounting IWW organizing drives and singing selections from the IWW songbook. FWs from Massachusetts and upstate and downstate New York attended, and the *Oneonta Daily Star* ran an item announcing the picnic under the headline "Workers of the World to Unite". The publicity stimulated several local inquiries.

New York Wobs are appealing the latest decision by the National Labor Relations Board upholding William Keller's union-busting. Following the IWW strike against Keller last October and his refusal to deal with our union, his workforce has been reduced to one scab, operations have been moved out of state, and Keller has lost most of his customers. But he and the NLRB are learning that the IWW will not roll over and play dead when faced with employer intransigence.

New York Wobs picketed a Cooperstown hotel in mid-September, alerting potential customers to the hotel's shoddy treatment of its workers. And the branch is

continuing its efforts to build a campaign against two-tier pay schemes.

## I WILL WIN

VANCOUVER: The Vancouver Branch is hosting a six-week course on basic union concepts and how these have been abandoned by today's business unions. The series, which starts on October 29th, is called "Put Some Pork on Your Fork: Union Ideas and What Happened to Them". Key topics will include the struggle for a shorter workweek, management "rights", the current economic crisis, abolition of the wage system, unions today, and "Where do we go from here?". The presentations (followed by general discussion) will be held 7:30 pm Tuesdays at the Organization of Unemployed Workers center, 1918 Commercial Drive.



Some of the folks attending the Northeast Wobbly Get-Together last August. (Wobphoto by Steve Kellerman)

## World Labor Conference Planned for 86

IWW plans for an international labor conference in Chicago next May are moving ahead.

The IWW is inviting workers from all over the world to discuss our common problems, such as unemployment, dangerous working conditions, austerity, and the current wave of anti-labor repression. The conference is planned to commemorate the Haymarket Centennial.

On May 4th, 1886, a large force of police attempted to disperse a peaceful demonstration protesting a police attack on strikers the day before. Police were attacking the demonstration when an unknown person threw a bomb, killing one policeman. The police panicked, firing their revolvers wildly into the crowd and killing several workers as well as six of their own men.

The incident was used as an excuse to destroy the revolutionary labor movement in Chicago. Eight anarchist labor leaders were arrested and charged with inciting workers to violence. Although no evidence was presented linking them to the bomb, four of the eight organizers were hung, and another allegedly committed suicide in his cell. The remaining three received long prison terms, but were pardoned several years later. The Haymarket affair has long been recognized internationally as a symbol of government and employer collusion to deprive workers of basic rights.

The conference will also mark the 50th anniversary of the Spanish Revolution, when Spanish workers put down a fascist military uprising and proceeded to reorganize much of their society before being crushed in a war against the fascists backed by Hitler and Mussolini and a counter-revolution led by Spain's "Communist" Party and small middle class. Also remembered will be the 1956 workers' revolt in Hungary.

Since IWW members overwhelmingly approved a referendum to sponsor the international conference, a committee of Midwest Wobs has been meeting to lay the groundwork for the event. Invitations have been sent to revolutionary unions and rank-and-file groups throughout the world, including the International Workers Association and its sections, the Bolivian Workers Center, SORWUC in Canada, the OVB in the Netherlands, Solidarnosc in Poland, the Allied Workers Union and General Workers Union in South Africa, the Coordinadora (a dockworkers' union) in Spain, the Swedish Central Workers' Organization, and a variety of other rank-and-file workers' organizations and papers. The committee is continuing its efforts to expand the list of invitees.

A tentative agenda has been drawn up for the convention combining public informational sessions with delegates-only sessions to deal with practical and procedural matters. Evening sessions would focus on labor struggles

in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and South Africa, along with programs on unemployment, ecology, global industries, and repression of the labor movement. The conference would include participation in a May Day parade, an art exhibition, and a closing commemoration program that would include speakers and music. Delegates-only sessions would address such subjects as new approaches to organizing, improving communications and solidarity, the international struggle for a shorter workweek, and joint efforts by workers of multinational employers.

Other sessions have been proposed to cover the transport and communication industry (what the bosses are up to and how workers can confront it), and the current policies of capital and governments and ways in which workers can struggle to develop liberating alternatives. The Haymarket International Conference Committee will continue to seek suggestions for agenda topics and other matters. Final decisions on agenda and format will be made by participating delegates at the opening session.

Among the issues to be brought before the conference will be the need for establishing ongoing communication links between unions all over the world, to exchange information about transnational corporations, to ensure that workers are not accidentally scabbing on one another, and to facilitate the development of international solidarity and joint struggles against our common enemy.

Plans are also under way to host speaking tours for a few conference participants in North America. The Planning Committee needs donations to help subsidize travel for delegates from impoverished unions. These should be sent in care of the IWW.

Workers are under attack by giant corporations and national governments, with investment strategies and austerity schemes being used to pit workers in different countries against each other. Where workers resist, tremendous forces are mobilized against us. The repression of Solidarnosc in Poland, the defeat of the British coal miners, and the destruction of PATCO in the US are all cut from the same cloth. Only global labor solidarity can enable us to defeat these attacks and advance toward workers' emancipation. The IWW's international labor conference is one small step toward this end.

### SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE:

### UNIVERSAL WORKERS' CONTROL OF INDUSTRY

Minnie F. Corder

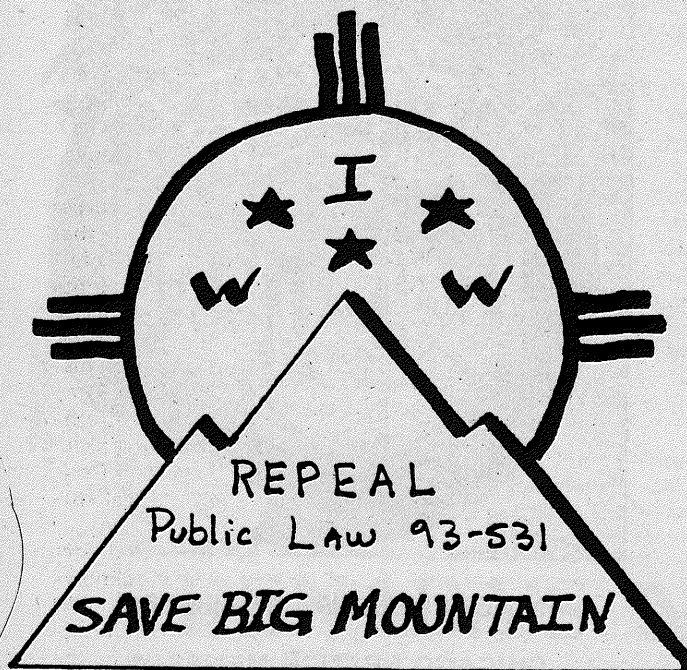
### WHY WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE IWW

The IWW was started 80 years ago by men and women in various unions who saw the need to modernize old union structures. It has a proud pioneering history of getting workers of many languages and skills to take joint action, extending unionism to new industries and areas, and developing new tactics to meet new situations.

We took the name Industrial Workers of the World because even 80 years ago workers everywhere needed to resist being used against each other, either to menace each other's pay or (in wartime) to kill each other's kids. Today transnational corporations are using us against each other in just such ways. Collective bargaining keeps running up against that fact.

The labor movements of the world today need to modernize their structures and practices to avoid being used against each other both inside and across national boundaries. Your participation in the IWW, whether you bargain through some other union or not, can help accomplish this immense task.

For a five-dollar initiation fee and \$5 a month dues, you can be a member of the IWW and proud of that fact. By active participation in our efforts you can quit being part of the problem that menaces mankind, and become part of the solution instead.



NOVEMBER 6TH, 1985 IS  
BIG MOUNTAIN SUPPORT DAY

The General Defense Committee calls on all branches and individuals to form informational picket lines, hold vigils, or do theater in front of federal buildings on this day.

For information contact the GDC or Tacoma/Olympia IWW Big Mountain Support, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405, (206) 272-4120.

The Tacoma/Olympia Branch urges all branches and individuals to form ongoing Big Mountain support groups. We offer to co-ordinate these efforts with the General Defense Committee.

### REFERENDUM IN FIELD

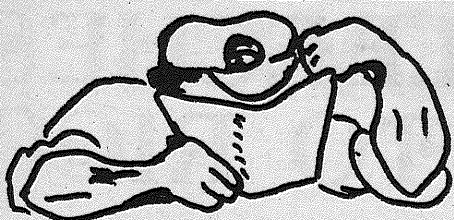
A referendum is in the field containing the ballot for 1986 General Administration officers and 14 proposed Constitutional amendments. Ballots must be postmarked no later than November 22nd, and received no later than November 25th. Any IWW member in good standing who did not receive a ballot with the October General Organization Bulletin should contact the General Administration.

### AND YOU THOUGHT THE IWW WAS SMALL

The *AFL-CIO News* reports that at its recent convention, the Siderographers Union elected three officers, with four delegates reviewing the Union's efforts to update its members' skills and modernize engraving techniques. The Union's nine members engrave plates for currency, stamps, and securities, and are split between working for the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington and for private securities firms in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Ottawa, and Philadelphia.

The Siderographers Union, now in its 84th year, complains that wages have not kept pace with productivity improvements. Perhaps if they tried uniting with their fellow workers where they work instead of maintaining a clearly-archaic craft organization, they might be able to bring some industrial power to bear and improve the situation.





# Books for Union People



*Visions of Emancipation: The Italian Workers' Movement Since 1945*, by Joanne Barken, published by Praeger, 1984, 265 pages, \$24.95 hardcover

This book was written as a general introduction to the post-war labor movement in Italy, centering on the "hot autumn" of 1969. The first part of the book describes the economic situation that led up to the resurgence of labor militancy between 1968 and 1972 and the aftermath of that resurgence.

During the late '60s and early '70s, the Italian labor movement drew upon forms of struggle that went far beyond the customary strike in which workers walk off the job and picket outside the factory walls. They developed several types of internal strikes, including the "checkerboard" and "hiccup" strikes, in which different groups of workers would take turns stopping production for a brief period; the slowdown and "work to rule" strikes; and the internal marches in which workers would parade through the factory, shutting off machines as they went. Yet another tactic was to simply put a particular demand—such as a shorter workday or a workers' assembly—into effect without waiting to negotiate it.

One of the major achievements of the workers' movement was the development of a new form of labor representation in the workplace—a system of rank-and-file delegates and councils. The councils served to plan and co-ordinate labor actions, and after a contract was signed led the struggle to get the bosses to implement the agreements. The councils were mixtures of worker activists and union members—not necessarily the same people, given the weakness of Italian unions on the factory floor. The council system spread from large workplaces in Northern Italy to medium and small workplaces throughout the country. At the peak of the movement, worker councils were found in a third of Italy's manufacturing workplaces.

In retrospect, it is clear that the workers' movement was most effective in dealing with demands focusing on the workplace (such as organizing production) and less effective in dealing with issues beyond the factory walls (such as investments and subcontracting). The workers did win more control over the pace of work and production schedules, better pollution controls, and a 40-hour workweek with 18 paid holidays and four weeks of vacation.

The second part of the book presents interviews with people connected with the Fiat Auto Company in 1979.

The book also deals with the role of the Communist Party in thwarting the labor movement, the rise of the feminist movement, and right- and left-wing terrorism. In all a very interesting book, though a bit expensive for its size. Pressure your local library into ordering a copy.

plp

## THE STRIKES OF '49

*The Coal Miners' General Strike of 1949-50 and the Birth of Marxist-Humanism*, by Andy Phillips, News & Letters, 59 East Van Buren, Chicago 60606, 48 pages, \$2

In 1947 John L. Lewis went to jail when the United Mine Workers struck, and the union was fined \$3 million. In 1948 it was fined another \$1.45 million for a strike he did not call. In 1949 the union faced the Taft-Hartley Act, which had been passed over President Harry S. Truman's veto. Only the UMWA, the IWW, and the printers in the ITU had refused to submit the affidavits required by the Act on the policies of their officers, and late in May the NLRB ruled that for that reason the union-shop contracts at the mines owned by the steel companies were now illegal.

With mine contracts expiring June 30th and about three months' supply of coal above ground, union miners had rested from their labors for a two-week "memorial period", allowed by the contracts, in March and again in June, shortly before their two-week vacation. The law required a 60-day notice of intent to strike, and no such notice was given. In mid-June the Steel Workers' contracts expired, but they sparred without a contract till they went on strike in October. Instead of striking when its contracts expired, the UMWA decreed a three-day workweek east of the Mississippi, for the law required its members to work only if they were "willing and able".

Once the contracts had expired, the operators quit payments into the union Health and Welfare Fund, so Lewis announced the suspension of payments from it. "Spontaneous" strikes resulted in all coal fields, with roving pickets assuring the spontaneity. On September 30th Lewis ordered the anthracite miners and miners west of the Mississippi back to work. The steel strike began the next day, and for the first time coal miners and steel workers were out together.

As the steel companies started settling, Lewis ordered the miners back to the three-day week November 10th. In January 1950 Consolidated Coal sought an injunction against the three-day week, the union called a strike against Consolidated, and miners all across the country stopped work on their own. Lewis wired a "suggestion" that they return to work, but they stayed out. On February 7th President Truman invoked the Taft-Hartley

Act, which he had opposed, so Lewis wired orders for the miners to return to work. At the meetings where these wires were read, the miners were informed that as laws cannot be passed against individuals, they could stay out as such—and that's what they did. Thus a new contract was reached assuring older miners likely to be forced off the job by the new "continuous miner" (a machine requiring such strenuous labor that only young miners could operate it) of seniority rights for the first time.

Such is the background of this first-hand account by Andy Phillips, who went to college on the GI Bill, started mining in 1948, and went through the long strike with both arms in casts from a coal-mine blast, but not deterred from action. He had become involved in efforts of leftists from Morgantown who, when UMWA relief sources were gone, got aid from comrades in Detroit. Out of all this grew the tendency currently expressed in the periodical *News & Letters*, which issues this pamphlet, setting its origins in this major labor struggle.

ft

## SOLVENT HAZARDS

*A Worker's Guide to Solvent Hazards*, by Cameron Wright, Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 Canada, 1985, \$2.85

Waterloo PIRG has produced a valuable pocket reference to solvent hazards. Divided into three parts: the kinds of hazards solvents cause, the solutions for those hazards, and specific information on common solvents, *A Worker's Guide to Solvent Hazards* is precise and comprehensive without being overwhelming.



OF COURSE THE COMPANY IS INTERESTED  
... IN HEALTH AND SAFETY!

The booklet's strongest points are its quick-reference sections on specific solvents. The Solvent Summaries give names (many solvents have several names), physical descriptions, common uses, and toxic effects for 23 common solvents. The Solvent Index gives alternate names for about 200 more solvents, an important tool when you're trying to find out just what this stuff you're using is, anyway. The section on flammability hazards of solvents is short, but includes important information seldom found in worker-oriented references. Knowing what a solvent's flashpoint is can be life-saving information.

Also outstanding are the section on how solvents enter the body and affect different bodily parts, the information on the protective limitations of gloves, and the resources section. With admirable internationalism (a quality often lacking in US-produced materials), Waterloo PIRG has included addresses for US as well as Canadian COSH groups and government agencies. The *Guide's* size (96 pages, 4 by 6) makes it easy to carry around—a vital asset for the steward or safety-committee member who needs to know *now*—not when he or she gets home or to the locker.

There are, however, major problems with *A Worker's Guide to Solvent Hazards*, most of which seem to stem from over-reliance on employer-oriented sources for information on some crucial topics. A case in point is the booklet's reliance on Threshold Limit Values (TLVs).

TLVs date back to the 1950s, when the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists began developing them as voluntary standards for chemical workplace hazards. These standards have since been written into laws and regulations in many places. The booklet notes that there is "controversy" about TLVs, but gives no hint as to why. In fact, TLVs have a bad name in much of the labor movement, for a number of reasons, including the following:

TLVs are routinely much higher than corresponding environmental-health standards. The original TLV for asbestos, for example, was 12 times higher than the environmental standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency. TLVs for carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide range from four to forty times as high as environmental health standards.

TLVs are based on predictions of immediate, acute reactions to chemicals. However as time and research go on, it becomes more and more apparent that the most important effects of chemical hazards (cancer, diseases of the liver, lungs, and nervous system, and the like) are those caused by long-term, low-dose exposures. These effects are given little consideration in setting TLVs.

TLVs are often adopted after a relatively cursory review of the available research—understandably, since the ACGIH has no staff, and TLVs are set by a committee of 15 members who meet only two or three times a year. To quote Dr. Leonard Goldwater, a widely-respected authority on occupational-health issues: "A great majority of all published TL values are based on speculation, opinion, or limited experimentation."

Despite their shortcomings, TLVs are widely quoted in *A Worker's Guide to Solvent Hazards* in place of more-reliable guidelines available from sources such as the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and other labor movements (the Swedish, for example) which have been able to deal more effectively with occupational-health issues.

*A Worker's Guide to Solvent Hazards* is similarly timid when it comes to solvent-induced cancer. The *Guide* admits only to benzene (and, incredibly, presents benzene's 10-ppm TLV without comment, though benzene's cancer-causing effects were specifically not considered in setting its TLV) as being a proven carcinogen or cancer-causing substance. By so doing, the *Guide* accepts the employer's definition of a proven carcinogen as something which has already killed at least a few thousand workers. The *Guide* appears, for example, to dismiss NIOSH's classification of dioxane—a solvent used in paints, dyes, varnish strippers, resins, and waxes—as a carcinogen, stating that "other organizations question this". The *Guide* fails to mention that the "other organizations" in question were primarily employer organizations and employer-funded research centers.

Despite its limitations, *A Worker's Guide to Solvent Hazards* is a must for all stewards and safety-committee members in workplaces where solvents are used. It's too bad, however, that the *Guide* isn't better—as it could easily have been. The employer-sponsored pseudo-science which "proved" that benzene (and asbestos, coal dust, and many other substances) was safe years ago is still alive and well. It does enough damage without being given credence by those preparing worker-oriented material on occupational health and safety.

Richard Christopher

*IWW et syndicalisme révolutionnaire aux Etats-Unis* (The IWW and Revolutionary Syndicalism in the US), by Larry Portis, French text, published by Editions Spartacus, 5 rue Sainte-Croix de la Bretonniere, 75004 Paris, France, 1985

Probably the first history of the IWW in French, this book by an American historian living in Paris has for its premise the lucid statement that "The IWW is the only revolutionary *movement* that has ever really existed in the US." Concise chapters are devoted to IWW prehistory ("Class Struggles in America: 1865-1905"); the formation of the IWW; the great strikes at Goldfield, McKees Rocks, Lawrence, and Paterson; IWW internationalism and anti-racism; direct action; the free-speech fights; and the government campaign to crush the movement during and after World War One.

Largely a summary of the principal secondary sources on IWW history in English, its 147 pages offer little that is new to the American reader, apart from a few references to IWW collaboration on French labor papers (notably *la Vie ouvrière*) and to the support for the IWW by French syndicalists. The author's interpretation of IWW history, however, differs markedly from that of most historians. An outspoken radical himself, and clearly sympathetic to IWW aims and principles, his book is refreshingly free of the malicious condescension and spiteful hindsight that so disfigure the volumes by Joseph Conlin, Melvyn Dubofsky, and many other non-radical students of IWW history.

Portis's treatment of the IWW in the 1920s and later is sketchy, but unlike most historians he does acknowledge that even after the disastrous 1924 split, "the IWW continued to play an appreciable role" in certain industries. Indeed, he concedes that as late as 1935, when the CIO was founded, Wobblies were still "very active in some regions".

Of the IWW resurgence which began in the 1960s he says not a word, though he does note that the union still exists and publishes the *Industrial Worker*. His final chapter, however, is not the usual two-faced eulogy, but rather a look ahead at the prospects for a renewal of the IWW spirit in American labor. "North American syndicalism in the coming years," he concludes, "by combining the combativeness of the IWW, the experience of the CIO, and the gains of the cultural upheavals of the '60s, could become the active element of a fundamental social change."

Franklin Rosemont

**WE REMEMBER LABOR'S BATTLES  
AND CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR  
WORKERS' EMANCIPATION**

**The Wobble: Revolutionary Syndicalist  
News Bulletin, PO Box 2824, Station A,  
Champaign, Illinois 61820**



# AMERICAN EXPLOITATION LEECHES ON BLOOD OF PUERTO RICO

Some 87 years of direct US rule of Puerto Rico has created an island that buys more from US companies than any other Latin American country, and gives US businesses a third of their Latin American-derived profit each year. An island where Puerto Ricans own less than half the country's wealth, and the US Military occupies 13% of the land. An island where unemployment is officially 21% (unofficially over 50%); where two-thirds of the families are eligible for food stamps; and where the per-capita income is only half that of Mississippi, the poorest state in the US.

Most traumatic of all, Puerto Rico since World War II has been hit with a blitzkrieg of US-oriented industrialization that has uprooted a rural people from their land, giving them little say in the matter except "adios." Those not finding jobs in the new factories (two out of five) have left Puerto Rico for urban mainland ghettos.

After the first shock of forcible annexation receded, the country languished in colonial agricultural poverty for the next two generations. In the '30s, '40s, and '50s, members of the Nationalist Party pressed for independence. In 1937, 21 *independentistas* and sympathizers were killed by police in Ponce for marching without a parade permit, and 150 were injured. In 1950 nationalists staged revolts in several island municipalities, and the Government called out the Air Force for strafing. About 2,000 people were arrested in island-wide mop-up operations, including many who merely sympathized with the idea of independence. In 1950 and 1954 Puerto Rican nationalists took their struggle to the US mainland, attacking the house in Washington DC where President Truman was staying and shooting up the House of Representatives.

## CORPORATE PUERTO RICO

Since 1947 Puerto Rico has pinned its hopes for development and based its social and economic policies on one objective: attracting US capital. In the process, the island has become a cog in the international circuit of production, a dependent satellite whose prospects ebb and flow with the needs of multinational capital.

The first development plan began in 1947 with an industrial-incentives law offering 10-year tax exemptions. Beyond this, Fomento (the agency created to lure foreign investors to the island) promised cheap labor, weak unions, unfettered trade with the US market, and political stability, guaranteed in the final instance by the presence of the US Military.

The package attracted a wave of small and medium-size labor-intensive companies geared to the US market. Though the new arrivals included firms like General Electric, Phelps Dodge, and W. R. Grace, most were textile, clothing, food-processing, and leather-goods operations with an average investment of less than a million dollars per plant.

The new American capital re-arranged Puerto Rico's economic and social landscape. There emerged an urban industrial proletariat with living standards higher than those prevailing under the old sugar-plantation model. Those displaced but not absorbed by industrial development were physically removed from the country through the mass emigration to the US of nearly half a million Puerto Ricans (then a fourth of the population) during the '50s. This contributed to an amelioration of tensions with the working class as the total dispossession of these hundreds of thousands was "erased" from the daily sight of their fellow workers. However the very "success" of the capital-import model began to work against it in the early '60s.

The US labor movement feared that Puerto Rico's cheap non-union labor would stimulate relocation of a substantial part of the eastern US textile industry, and thereby debilitate the unions. On their part, US manu-

facturers who lacked the capacity to relocate their operations complained that competitors established in Puerto Rico enjoyed unjust advantages. Together they pressured Washington into extending the federal minimum wage to Puerto Rico.

Under federal intervention, the median Puerto Rican wage rose from 42¢ to 94¢ an hour between 1950 and 1960, an increase of 124%. During this same period, the US average rose 53%, from \$1.50 to \$2.30. Although the absolute margin increased, the narrowing relative gap disrupted such low-wage industries as clothing and textiles. The increases made it more and more difficult to cover the costs of shipping products back to the mainland and still maintain the high profit margins the companies had come to expect.

In 1963 a new incentives law was passed in Puerto Rico, extending the tax exemption for manufacturers from 10 to 16 years and providing mechanisms for individual companies to stretch it longer still. The law was designed to attract heavier industry less sensitive to wage increases and oriented toward long-term rather than immediate profit, the principal target being petrochemicals. The years after 1965 saw the arrival of an entirely new group of multinationals linked to the petrochemical sector, as well as other representatives of big capital, such as pharmaceuticals and electronics. Light labor-intensive industry was displaced by heavy capital-intensive industry.

By 1974 Puerto Rico produced 40% of all paraxylene consumed in the US, as well as 30% of the cyclohexane, 26% of the benzene, 24% of the xylene, 23% of the propylene, and 12% of the vinyl chloride. Over 40% of all electrodes used in the US came from Puerto Rican factories. Of the Fortune 500 companies, 110 were operating in Puerto Rico. They ran a total of 336 subsidiaries, of which 333 had received free factory construction, training, financing, or legal assistance from Fomento.

Under the impetus of this mass infusion of big capital, Puerto Rico emerged as the most important site of direct US investment in all of Latin America.

According to the 1975 Tobin report, the rate of return on physical assets of a typical subsidiary was between 35 and 60%. This arrangement induced multinationals to locate their most lucrative product lines in Puerto Rico and adopt a policy of transfer pricing which inflated income figures for Puerto Rico and reduced them for other (higher tax) areas. Despite these financial machinations, however, trouble was brewing. The petrochemical companies saw dramatic declines in their rate of return, and unemployment soared in the mid-1970s.

Starting in the early '70s, a new Puerto Rican independence group (the FALN) began a bombing campaign on the US mainland, mostly in New York and Chicago. After two trials in which a number of *independentistas* were sentenced for conspiracy, seditious conspiracy, and bombing, mainland actions diminished.

But while things have quieted down somewhat on the mainland, plenty continues to happen in Puerto Rico to keep the fires of independence burning.

People are still unhappy about what happened in Villa Sin Miedo, a squatters' colony near San Juan begun in 1980 by 250 homeless families who took over an abandoned piece of government property. By 1982 the population had established a church, a grocery store, and several jointly-owned farm plots. In May of that year, after a series of legal and political squabbles, police invaded the town, gassing and beating residents. By the end of the day, they had burned and bulldozed Villa Sin Miedo to the ground.

People remain angry about Vieques, a tiny island off Puerto Rico that was the site of a quiet dress rehearsal for the US invasion of Grenada. Vieques used to be a prosperous fishing community before the US Military began using it for target practice. Intensive shelling has disrupted the lives and livelihoods of the island's resi-

dents, and it's been the site of numerous protests since the late '70s.

In one protest, a militant *independentista* arrested for trespassing on government property was sentenced to jail in Atlanta. Shortly afterward he was found dead in his cell. Since then, clandestine independence groups have carried out a spate of bombings and other actions on the island, targeting US facilities.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Since the Carter Administration, the US Government has shown high-level interest in statehood for Puerto Rico. *Independentistas* believe this stems not from largess, but from the island's increasing economic value and from its strategic geo-military position in an ever more restive Caribbean and Central America. In view of this, making the island the 51st state would seem the easiest way to quell the movement for its sovereignty.

In the meantime, two plans for the island's development have been proposed. The first revolves around the new industrial-incentives law approved in 1978. Unlike previous measures aimed exclusively at industry, the new law made service businesses eligible for tax exemptions and other inducements. The favored enterprises run the gamut from commercial distributors, banks, and investment houses to international public-relations firms, consultants, computer services, and insurance companies to service and maintenance firms which cater to machinery, ships, and planes. The aim was to re-insert Puerto Rico into the production cycle as a service center for multinationals attacking the Caribbean market.

This strategy hinges on placing other Caribbean islands in an economic-satellite relationship somewhat analogous to that which has existed between Puerto Rico and the US. Puerto Rico would serve as the base for US companies with subsidiaries in the Caribbean. These subsidiaries, called twin plants, would provide the mother plants with components that use large quantities of labor. Final processing and distribution would be done from Puerto Rico.

The second scheme, called the 2020 Plan, calls for more direct and intensive exploitation of Puerto Rican mineral resources. Exploration has revealed an estimated \$10 billion in nickel, iron, magnesium, cobalt, and copper ore. The project calls for building 11 industrial parks and 17 military bases, as well as large-scale open-pit mining. On an island somewhere between Connecticut and Delaware in size, such schemes are certain to wreak havoc on the natural and (already battered) social ecology. About 30% of Puerto Rico's women have already been induced to accept sterilization. The framers of the 2020 Plan may well be relying on more emigration and sterilization to take care of any "surplus" population.

## FBI RAID HITS PUERTO RICO

In the predawn hours of August 30th, 1985, heavily-armed FBI agents in cars and helicopters fanned out across Puerto Rico. Led by agent Richard Held (who took part in the FBI's 1973 assault on members of the American Indian Movement at Wounded Knee, South Dakota), 200 feds arrested 11 people, confiscated papers from the houses of some 20 others, and impounded the printing press of *Pensamiento Critico*, a leftist magazine. The 11 arrested were first taken to the Federal Building in San Juan, then flown in Air Force jets to the US prison in Otisville, New York. Simultaneous raids in Boston and Dallas netted two more arrestees, and in Mexico a third was arrested/abducted and hauled to Miami. All 14 were charged with conspiracy.

The heavy-handed operation evoked a storm of protest in the Puerto Rican press. The operation was generally ignored by the mainland press, partly because the raids took place on Labor Day weekend and partly because the US press accepted the assurances of Attorney General Meese and FBI chief Webster that it was a major blow against a communist terror network operating in the Western Hemisphere.

Unpleasant parallels to the British-Six Counties situation suggest themselves. In both cases a colonialist power is trying to brand an anti-colonial struggle against it as criminal, and simultaneously taking advantage of the situation to undercut the civil rights of the "mainland" population.

In Britain, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, first introduced as a "temporary" emergency act, has become permanent—a much-used fishing net in the hands of the Government against political activists of all stripes. In the US, the Government whipped up an anti-terrorist frenzy in order to introduce (1) the "anonymous jury", wherein the jurors are formally instructed that they are to be referred to by number because of the danger the accused may pose to the jury's well-being, and then told to give the accused a fair trial; (2) a new form of "criminal contempt" whereby people can be held in prison for life if they don't talk to a grand jury; and (3) legislation whereby "assisting a terrorist organization" as defined by the US Attorney General is punishable with 20 years in jail.

p/p

# GRENADA'S NEW "LIBERTY"

## AIFLD DAY IN GRENADA

The US-installed government on Grenada is continuing its efforts to housebreak the organized labor movement on that Caribbean island. The overthrow of the Bishop Government on October 19th, 1983 paved the way for the US invasion six days later. None of Washington's promises that the invasion would bring in its wake major economic-development projects to create jobs and better living conditions have been fulfilled; and unemployment, which had fallen to a historic low for the island of 14% in 1983, has shot back up to nearly 45% today.

An anti-labor offensive has been waged directly by individual employers in the form of arbitrary firings and layoffs, rollbacks of wages and benefits, and union busting. The US-installed government has played a central role in attacks on workers and unions on several different fronts, and is Americanizing the unions with the aid of the so-called American Institute for Free Labor Development.

The AIFLD, a CIA-initiated outfit actively backed

by the AFL-CIO bureaucracy in the US, is the main instrument of the foreign and local capitalists inside the Grenada labor movement. In Grenada the AIFLD cooperates closely with the Government and the right-wing labor bureaucrats, especially the officialdom of the Seamen's and Waterfront Workers' Union (SWWU), funding raids on militant unions or those closely identified with the former government, such as the Bank and General Workers Union (BGWU), whose then-president was massacred in the same coup that overthrew Bishop.

The BGWU has lost some 1200 members—roughly half its total enrollment—since 1983. Part of the decline is due to the shutdown of an agro-industries plant and successful union busting at the airport, but most of it is blamed on SWWU poaching. The SWWU's most recent raid was at the Grenada Breweries in 1984. The raid was such a flagrant violation of the Trade Union Recognition Act adopted by the former government—and still on the books—that the Trade Union Council (TUC) publicly protested this attack by the SWWU on another member union of the TUC. Despite the TUC protest and a formal complaint by the BGWU, however, the Ministry of Labor simply sat on the case, doing nothing.



# IN MEMORY OF THESE MTW MEMBERS

IN MEMORY OF THESE  
MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS  
IU 510 OF THE IWW  
AND MANY MORE

X18584

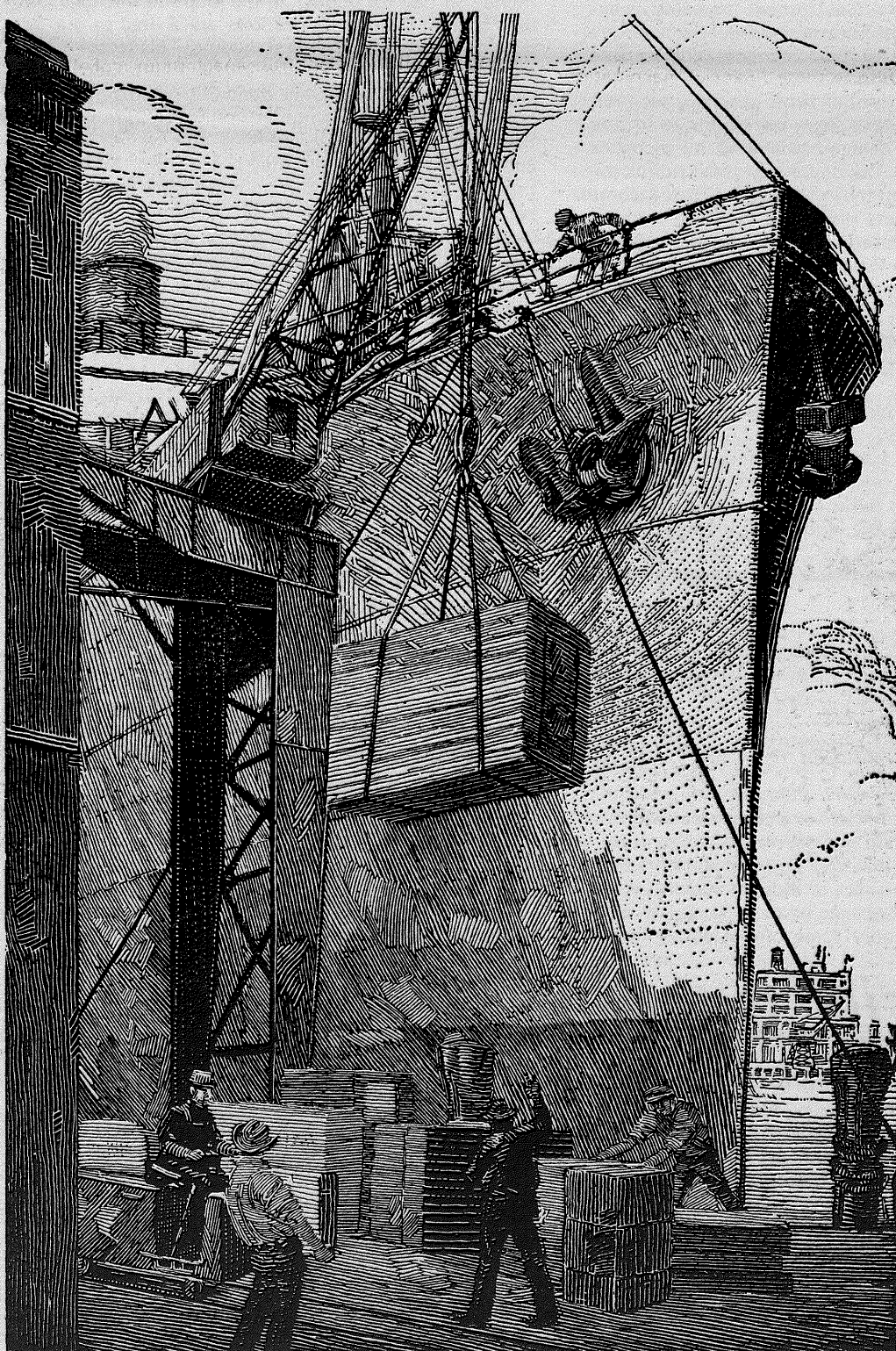


Vaughan Chorlian  
Ben Fletcher  
S.E. Hamm

Barney Newton  
Joe Paredes  
E. Bagley

Harry Owens  
John Byrd  
Joe Sullivan

J.W. Douglas  
W.E. Patton  
Jack Walsh



Al Hall  
Tortugas  
Barney Donnelly  
J.B. Childs  
Dave Powers  
Joe Rogers  
S. Harrington  
Emil Degen  
Blackie Vaughan  
George Speed  
W. Drennan  
Frank Patino  
Elmer Fox  
Joe Lucas  
V. Brill  
J. Forgarty  
Shorty Gorman  
Red Bendle





readers' soap box

AMNESTY FOR BRITISH MINERS

Brothers and Sisters:

I read the article in the *Industrial Worker* (Volume 82, Number 9) concerning your campaign for amnesty for sacked and imprisoned British miners.

The Hull and District TUC (Trades Union Congress) Disputes Committee developed from the miners' support group at the end of the recent miners' strike. During the strike we were twinned with the three Castleford pits (Wheldale, Tryston, and Glasshoughton), and our job was to raise money on a weekly basis to provide food parcels for the miners' families and also food for the kitchens where many of these families went for their meals. Over the Christmas period we also ran a special campaign to ensure that every miner's child had at least one toy and each family had a Christmas turkey. During the strike we raised 35,000 pounds in cash—plus food, clothes, and toy collections every week—by staging benefit concerts and organizing appeals and collections in pubs and workplaces and on the streets.

As you are aware the struggle still goes on—especially for sacked and imprisoned miners. To raise money now, we are organizing a series of benefit concerts beginning in October. Also during the strike many trade unionists started collections of union badges, and this has become almost a cult among activists. So another way we have of raising money now is selling and auctioning badges. If you could donate any badges from American trade unions we would be very grateful.

The Disputes Committee also supports any group of workers which takes direct action against the offensive of the employers and the Tory Government. Since the miners' strike we have also given moral and financial support to the workers at Hindle Gears, Silent Night (bed manufacturers), and Golden Wonder (crisp manufacturers), and to the Hull dockers and health-service workers.

Yours fraternally,  
Ron Cooper, Convenor  
Disputes Committee

UNFAIR TO GOMPERS?

Dear Editors:

Without getting into the pros and cons of the type of unionism Samuel Gompers espoused, allow me to object vigorously to Pervicacia's extremely unfair characterization of his celebrated call for "More now!" (October *IW*, Page 2)

At the least, the writer demonstrated a woeful ignorance of Gompers and labor history if he is not aware of the complete statement by Gompers.

If the writer is aware of the complete statement, he is guilty (along with the editors of the *Industrial Worker*) of perpetuating a calumny against Gompers and, by extension, against the mainstream labor movement.



You owe it to your readers to print Gompers' complete statement.

James Templeton  
Managing Editor  
*Saint Louis Labor Tribune*

RESPONSE: Gompers' statement called for less profits and militarism and more of the good things of life. Pervicacia noted Gompers' claim to be a socialist and his "spurts of idealistic sayings", but pointed out that in practice Gompers appealed to selfishness and a beggar-thy-neighbor style of "unionism". We in the *IWW* subscribe to the curious belief that what a person does is more important than what that person claims to stand for. And by this standard, Gompers was treated more than fairly. — JB

INFLATION: CAUSE AND CURE

I have just read the *IWW* pamphlet "Inflation: Cause and Cure", and would like to make two comments about it. First, the pamphlet is incorrect when it states that non-productive work—such as that done by government employees and supervisory personnel—causes inflation. To support this position, the pamphlet argues that non-productive work does not generally increase the amount of goods in circulation, while it does increase total income and hence demand. With more money "chasing" the same amount of goods, prices increase as productive and non-productive workers compete for a limited number of goods.

There are two problems with this argument. First, the amount of goods in circulation is not fixed. Since industry generally runs at 80% or less of maximum output, and is therefore capable of responding to increases in demand, the amount of goods varies with consumer demand. For example, if the Government increases its expenditures, implying that more non-productive workers are employed, consumer income increases, and so does the amount of goods produced.

The second problem is that firms generally set their prices in a way that makes them unresponsive to any short-term increases in demand generated by increases in non-productive work. Taking both of these points together, increasing demand by increasing the total income of non-productive workers results, in the short term, in more goods being produced, more productive workers being employed, and no inflation.

My second comment concerns the pamphlet's asser-

tion that higher wages do not lead to higher prices. While it is true that the relationship is not a necessary one, there is a great deal of evidence that most firms raise their prices when their wage costs rise. That is, most firms follow a cost-plus-profit price-setting procedure which leads them to raise their prices whenever their wage (or material) costs increase, in order to preserve their profit margin. Of course, it is possible for individual capitalists to maintain prices while letting increased wage costs eat up profits; but the logic of capitalism prevents this from being a universal phenomenon.

While these comments do call into question some of the arguments used in the pamphlet to explain inflation, they do not negate the suggestions put forth to end inflation. Their importance lies more in questioning the position adopted by many radical groups that workers can increase their share of national income by increasing their wage rates. Rather, since the capitalists can always counteract any increase in wage rates with a corresponding increase in prices, the only way for workers to radically increase their standard of living is for them to take possession of the means of production and abolish the wage system.

Fred Lee

RESPONSE: If wage hikes caused prices to go up the bosses would welcome them, as wages represent only a small fraction of total costs in most industries. Instead the bosses fight unions and demands for wage hikes ruth-



BROTHER! "PRICES UP, UNEMPLOYMENT UP, WAGES DOWN!" IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK WE'D ALL DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN.

lessly, and around the world workers find that inflation far outstrips wage gains. And while the bosses could certainly increase production (thus leading to lower prices) and are chiefly restrained from doing so by insufficient demand (that is, insufficient demand by those with the money to pay for goods), in the long run the huge numbers of non-productive workers are a drag to our productive capacity and living standards. This sector absorbs workers who could otherwise engage in productive labor, either increasing our living standards or cutting working hours, or both. Our pamphlet's essential point is that inflation is not caused by workers—it's caused by bosses and the economic system they profit from. And until we organize as a class and put an end to this rotten system, we will indeed continue to suffer from its effects. But we can mitigate those effects and defend our interests and living standards through militant unionism, while we organize to accomplish our long-term goal.

Literature!

Practical and Informational:

- |   |      |
|---|------|
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IWW LABOR HISTORY CALENDAR

The IWW is producing an attractive 14-page labor-history calendar for 1986. This 11-by-17-inch calendar will feature dates drawn from labor history from around the globe, with striking graphics depicting the struggles of our fellow workers to build a better world. It will be available this fall for \$4.95, with our normal discounts for bulk orders. Don't miss it!

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# Sky Pilots or Rebel Workers?

*The Soul of the Wobblies: The IWW, Religion, and American Culture in the Progressive Era*, by Donald Winters, Greenwood Press, 153 pages, \$27.95

This curious book examines the relationship between the IWW and American religion up to 1917, when it buries us. While such a study would be of limited importance and interest, the author—apparently desperate for a striking new interpretation of the IWW to make his mark on the world of academia as an innovative historian—has gone beyond that to create a work which approaches total worthlessness.

It is Winters' bizarre contention that the IWW is a religious organization. Needless to say, this forces him into fancy footwork and frequent sleight of hand, beginning with his definition of religion (on Page 11) as "a system of beliefs and symbols which seeks to develop in the working class a sense of solidarity and class-consciousness, and a motivation to engage in a class struggle against the evil force of capitalism toward the end of creating a new order". While the IWW certainly qualifies, if we are to accept this definition it pretty much wipes out all the other "religious" organizations he seeks to compare us to.

I refuse to take this thesis seriously enough to detail the torturous arguments advanced in its behalf throughout the book. Suffice it to say that Winters' spotlight is turned on marginal figures and on writings in our press that he admits are atypical, relying on allegory, sweeping generalizations, and consistent failure to distinguish between expropriation and subversion of the ruling class's symbols and shared beliefs. Winters is apparently deeply impressed by the fact that both the IWW and religious organizations held street meetings and sang songs, as well as taking up collections, publishing literature, and so on. From these similar activities he deduces that our natures are the same, ignoring the fact that the sky pilots promise us wage slaves pie in the sky if we just do our bosses' bidding in the here and now, while the IWW organizes workers to dump the bosses off our backs, take control of industry, and get our pie now, while we're still alive to eat it.

There is a discussion of the differences between Eastern and Western evangelical protestants that some may find interesting, some good material on IWW opposition to fakers and spoilers of all stripes (but selectively focusing on sky pilots), an interesting (though fundamentally misdirected) discussion of IWW poetry, and an all-too-

brief chapter on IWW organizing efforts in the Mesabi range. This last could have been expanded into an interesting book, but instead Winters opts for the dubious glory of being the first to seriously consider the proposition that the IWW is a religious outfit.

Though I can't imagine who would want to buy it, the publisher is making this title—and other Greenwood titles on the IWW—available to *Industrial Worker* readers at a 25% discount. To order *Soul of the Wobblies* send us a check for \$21. *At the Point of Production* (an excellent collection of essays on the IWW in specific areas and industries, edited by Joseph Conlin) is \$22.50, as is *Fellow Workers and Friends* (Philip Foner's oral history on the IWW's free-speech fights). *Bread and Roses Too* (essays about the IWW by Joseph Conlin some of which are quite good and others absurd) is \$21. Unfortunately, Greenwood Press is not making available its collection of reprints of IWW publications. The above prices include discount and postage, and checks should be made out to the IWW.

Jon Bekken

## INDUSTRIAL WORKER SUSTAINING FUND

(Received During August 1985)

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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.  
(The *Industrial Worker* loss for August was \$465.96.)

## NOTICE? DID YOU NOTICE? DID YOU

**SLUMLORD'S REPRIEVE:** Judge Veronica Simmons McBeth recently sentenced a Los Angeles slumlord to live for a month in one of his own dilapidated and rat-infested apartments. Unfortunately, the neurosurgeon landlord was permitted the services of a private security guard while he lived there.

**US MILLIONAIRE AIDS BRITISH SCABS:** John Paul Getty Jr. reportedly donated some \$210,000 to help finance the legal expenses of miners in Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire who are trying to split from the National Union of Mineworkers after having scabbed during last year's coal strike.

**FIVE FILIPINOS KILLED IN STRIKE:** At least five people, including a journalist, were killed September 23rd in Davao, Mindanao at the start of a two-day island-wide general strike. The five were victims of separate shooting incidents. The strike was called by a coalition to protest military abuses.

**GOD'S FAULT:** Officials of Kanawha County, West Virginia have taken to calling the numerous spills and leaks of hazardous chemicals occurring there "acts of God". In just one week in August at least 145 people were injured and 200 more had to be evacuated from their homes as a result of God's intervention, and officials say they expect more such incidents in the future. Some of us might be more inclined to suspect that lax safety precautions and a profit-mad system are to blame, but doubtless God will deal with us.

**IN EXPLOSIVE POWER,** the 3,000 tons of bombs dropped in US-directed bombing of El Salvador equals a fifth of Hiroshima.

**MILITARY CUSHION:** During the 1982 depression,

### CROOKED HEADS

Are you sick and tired of seeing crooked headlines in the *Industrial Worker*?—and damned few headlines at that? Tired enough to want to do something about it?

A few years back we ran an appeal for funds to buy a headliner—modern technology's answer to the hand-pressed, press-typed headlines that have graced and disgraced the *Industrial Worker* for so long. That appeal raised \$330: a good deal short of what we need, but a good start nonetheless.

A new Kroy lettering machine with the desired number of type disks comes to about \$900. An alternate strip-printing system can be had for about \$500, but it's much slower and harder to use, and we'd have to set up a darkroom. The *IW* currently spends about a hundred dollars a year on headline press type plus countless hours of extra labor, and the prices keep on rising. So a headliner would pay for itself in a few years and result in a much-better-looking paper to boot.

So send in your donations to the fund, care of the General Administration.

as the rest of the economy hobbled along at growth rates of 1 or 2%, the armsectors of the auto, electronics, radio, telephone, and steel industries, among others, grew between 13 and 28%. Quick to see the profit in armsmongering, one company, United Technologies, upped its defense production from 20% of sales in 1980 to 33% in 1982.

**MILITARY-GOVERNMENTAL-INDUSTRIAL** complex: Over the last 25 years, direct US military spending has averaged about a third of the federal budget. Nearly 7 out of 10 workers employed by the Federal Government since 1960 have worked in the Armed Forces or in agencies related to the Military.

**JAPANESE RACISM:** Some 1500 people of Korean or Chinese ancestry live in Nagasaki, Japan, and in December Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima suggested that some of them be hired for city jobs. Resistance was so strong in the local assembly that the Mayor was forced to withdraw his suggestion. Hiring foreigners, even those born in Japan, for government jobs is almost unheard of in that country. Here and there one finds a municipality that has employed a Korean for a low-paying job, but nothing more than that. In Nagano, in Central Japan, officials recently hired a Japanese-born Korean woman as a teacher in an elementary school, but canceled her appointment after the Ministry of Education in Tokyo objected.

**GOLDEN AGE:** In 1983 the poverty rate for everyone over 65 was 16%. But that figure conceals great disparities based on race and sex. The poverty rate was about 10% for men and 17% for women; 24% for women of Hispanic origin and 42% for black women. And of women over 65 living alone, more than half were below the poverty line. About 60% of women who drew Social Security had no other source of income, and the average monthly benefit women were receiving from Social Security was barely over \$360.

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

1. Title of publication: *Industrial Worker*. 2. Date of filing: September 14th, 1985. 3. Frequency of issue: Monthly. 4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 3435 North Sheffield (202), Chicago, Illinois 60657. 5. Same. 6. Publisher: Industrial Workers of the World. Editors: Carlos Cortez, Mike Hargis, Penny Pixler, and Fred Thompson. 7. Owner: Industrial Workers of the World. 8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, et cetera: None. 9. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months. 10. Extent and nature of circulation (the first figure presented is the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months, the second is the actual number of copies of the issue published nearest the filing date): a. Total number of copies printed: 3083, 3000. b. Paid circulation: Dealers and carriers: 48, 50. Mail subscriptions: 2270, 2430. c. Total paid and/or requested circulation: 2318, 2480. d. Free distribution by mail, carrier, or other means: 162, 154. e. Total distribution: 2480, 2634. f. Copies not distributed: 603, 366. 11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete: Jon Bekken.

## IWW Directory

**ALASKA:** Southeast Alaska General Membership Branch, c/o Bird, 1680 Harbor Way, Juneau 99801. Barry Roderick, Delegate, Box 748, Douglas 99824. Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage 99508.

**AUSTRALIA:** *IWW Delegate, 417 King Street (1st Floor), Newton, Sydney.*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Vancouver General Membership Branch, Box 34334 Station D, Vancouver V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 876-8438. West Kootenay IWW Group, PO Box 941, Nelson V1L 6A5, Canada.

**CALIFORNIA:** San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, PO Box 40485, San Francisco 94140. Little River IWW Group, c/o PO Box 302, Little River 95456. R.M.R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 3924½ Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609, (415) 658-0293. David Bernreuter, Delegate, 718 Cayuga Street, Santa Cruz 95062.

**FLORIDA:** Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey 33552.

**GUAM:** Shelby Shapiro, Delegate, PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910.

**IDAHO:** IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlatch 83855. Southeastern Idaho Forest Workers Affinity Group IU 120, Box 764, Pocatello 83201.

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago General Membership Branch, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm. Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Jeff Stein, Delegate, Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

**INDIANA:** Mitchell Rice, Delegate, 7333 West Isom Road, Bloomington 47401.

**KANSAS:** General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 6130, Kansas City 66106. IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita 67201.

**KENTUCKY:** Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville 40204.

**LOUISIANA:** IWW Group, PO Box 16725, Baton Rouge 70893.

**MANITOBA:** Winnipeg IWW Group, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg R3M 3S7, Canada.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Boston General Membership Branch, Box 454, Cambridge 02139. Meetings first Monday of each month, 522-7090. Western Massachusetts IWW Group, Box 465, Hadley 01035.

**MICHIGAN:** Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197, (313) 483-3478. Meetings second Sunday of each month. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor 48107. People's Wherehouse IU 660 Job Branch, c/o Burkhardt, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids 49506.

**MINNESOTA:** Twin Cities IWW Group, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall, Number 3, Saint Paul 55104.

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**OHIO:** Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch, Box 92, Clifton 45316, (513) 767-9217. Meetings first Sunday of each month at 7 pm at IWW Hall, 68 Water Street, Clifton 45316. Prison Organizing Project: Dennis Wolfel, Number 145-554, Box 45699, Lucasville 45699-0001.

**ONTARIO:** Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto M1A 2L4, Canada.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Tom Hill, Delegate, PO Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Harbinger Publications IU 450, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201, (803) 254-9398.

**TEXAS:** Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield, Apartment B, Austin 78703, (512) 472-7854. Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston 77087, (713) 921-0877.

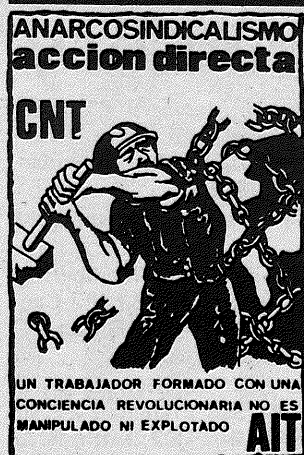
**WASHINGTON:** Bellingham General Membership Branch PO Box 1386, Bellingham 98227. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma 98405, (206) 272-8119. Orchard Workers Organizing Project, Box 2223, Chelan 98816. Walla Walla IWW Group, PO Box 392, Walla Walla 99362.

**WISCONSIN:** Madison General Membership Branch, c/o 1846 Jenifer, Madison 53704, (608) 251-1937 or 249-4287.

### DRIVING AMERICA CRAZY

The Hertz Corporation reckons that in 1984, in the US alone, people spent \$705 billion to own and operate cars and trucks. Almost half of that went for passenger cars, which took almost an eighth of all personal income, costing owners an average of \$2,814 per car per year and just under 33¢ a mile. Has not the combination of auto companies, financiers, real-estate dealers, and transportation authorities maneuvered to make us also use a large part of our day going to and from work at a substantial cost in life and limb? Could not a ten-year-old plan life better?





# REVOLUTIONARY UNION NEWS



For the last several years the *Industrial Worker* has been following with interest the progress of the International Workers Association (IWA/AIT), the revolutionary syndicalist international. As many readers know, the AIT was formed in 1922 to offer an alternative to the Communist Party-dominated Red Trade Union International and the reformist-Socialist Amsterdam International. Throughout the '20s and '30s the revolutionary syndicalists enjoyed a mass following, some 5,000,000 members at its peak, organized in sections all over Europe and Latin America. But the twin hammers of Fascism and Stalinism all but smashed the International, so that by the end of World War Two most of its sections were reduced to small propaganda groups, with the few unions that remained leading a precarious and clandestine existence.

Then, with the death of Franco in 1975, the Spanish National Confederation of Labor (CNT) re-emerged from the underground, breathing new life into revolutionary unionism around the globe and encouraging a new generation of militants to pick up the pieces of the old International. But since then the progress has been slow and uneven. Today the International has sections in some 15 countries. Most of these sections are still relatively small, but this does not mean that their activity has been without effect. During the year-long coal strike in Great Britain the local IWA section, the Direct Action Movement, was very active, co-ordinating solidarity activity among the various sections of the IWA, and revolutionary unions outside the International as well. IWA sections in Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, and Spain raised funds, arranged holidays for miners' children, sponsored speaking tours for strikers, and traveled to Great Britain to observe the strike first-hand and take part in solidarity demonstrations. This activity has won the DAM re-

spect in many pit villages and among rank-and-file militants as well as gaining a wider hearing for the ideas of revolutionary unionism. In the aftermath of the strike, the DAM continues to support the fight by agitating for amnesty for imprisoned strikers and sacked militants.

Similarly, the Free Workers' Union of Germany has made its presence felt in the struggle for a shorter work-week. During the strike for the 35-hour week last year the FAU formed a number of 35-hour committees, actively participating in strike mobilizations and demonstrations. Their consistent advocacy of no compromise on the issue of 35 hours won them some recruits among metalworkers, one group of whom formed a branch of the FAU in their factory. As noted above, the FAU was also active in supporting the British miners. In conjunction with other activists, it raised some 198,000 marks for the strikers and sponsored a holiday for miners' kids in Koln which created quite a stir and brought the FAU a good deal of publicity.

The French section of the IWA, the National Confederation of Labor (CNTF), has gone through a number of changes over the years. Formed in 1946, the CNTF had been dominated for most of its history by Spanish exiles, veterans of the Spanish Civil War and Revolution. As a result, its newspaper, *le Combat Syndicaliste* (*El Combate Sindicalista*), devoted much of its space to Spanish events and anarcho-syndicalist history and theory. With the re-emergence of the CNT in Spain in the mid-'70s, many exiles returned to their homeland, and the CNTF began to rethink its role. In 1983 the CNTF made the decision to turn away from mere propaganda and toward a more syndicalist (unionist) practice. This activity has paid off in terms of growing membership and greater impact on the job. The CNTF now has industrial unions in Agriculture, Building Trades, Entertainment, Health and

Education, Marine Transport and Fishers, Metal Trades, and Telecommunications and Post, with sections in over 30 towns. They are currently engaged in a campaign against the so-called "collective-interest jobs", which allow greater exploitation of youth through a lowering of the minimum wage, and against Government plans to give employers greater flexibility to fire workers and reduce wages.

On the other side of the Pyrenees, the Spanish CNT-AIT has been pulling itself back together after several years of confusion and internal disruption caused by a number of splits and defections beginning in 1979. CNT membership has dropped from a high of 300,000 around 1978 to less than 10,000 today. The reasons for this decline are complex, but can be boiled down to the following: First, many of the anti-authoritarian young people who joined the CNT in the euphoria of the mass struggles in 1976-77 did not fully understand what revolutionary syndicalism was, and when the struggle receded they discovered that they could not work within a syndicalist framework, and dropped out. Second, the constant repression and harassment the CNT has been subjected to since the Scala affair in 1978 (there are now some 40 libertarian prisoners buried in Spanish jails) has frightened many potential supporters away. Third, the several splits and internal battles that have rocked the organization since 1978 have also taken their toll, with nearly 15% of the organization going with the splitters, while many more no doubt quit out of frustration. Fourth, and most important, the general disenchantment with unions has cut the unionized sector of the Spanish workforce to less than 10%. This latter reason for the CNT's troubles goes a long way toward explaining the organization's opposition to the various social pacts and the enterprise committees which have reduced Spain's unions to impotence, driving workers away in droves. The Communist Party's Workers' Commissions (CC.OO.), for example, went from a membership of 500,000 in 1979 to a current membership of about 60,000.

Today the CNT-AIT has 290 branches throughout Spain (more than any other union). In Catalonia, the heart of industrial Spain, the anarcho-syndicalists are organized into 14 county federations, 17 local federations, and 60 union branches with sections in the following sectors: the SEAT car factories; mining in Balsa-rena, Berga, Sallent, and Suria; sanitation and catering; and the textile industry. Recently 30 militants at the state railway, RENFE, came over to the CNT from the Workers' Commissions. This is happening more and more as workers become increasingly disgusted with the class collaboration of the CC.OO. and the Socialist UGT (General Union of Workers), especially in the Basque region, where the Socialist Government's destruction of the steel and shipbuilding industries has elicited a militant response from workers, who have staged several massive strikes in the last year in which the CNT-AIT has played a significant role.

While the foregoing indicates that the IWA is making progress, it has a long way to go before it can become a major force in the international labor movement once again. Encouraging signs are recent contacts made with sizable revolutionary unions with strong organization in basic industries, including the Bolivian Workers' Central (COB), the South African Allied Workers' Union, and the Independent Union of Shop Organizations (OVB of Holland—a 15,000-member union with sections in the fishing industry of Rotterdam and the Hague and among taxi drivers and teachers in several towns). Unemployed workers in particular seem to be turning to the OVB for support that is not forthcoming from their bureaucratic unions. The OVB has worked especially closely with the IWA, and the anarcho-syndicalist sector of the COB has shown interest in forming an IWA section in Bolivia.

To consolidate these gains, the IWA will have to put a greater emphasis on the syndicalist component of its anarcho-syndicalism, as the CNTF has apparently done. This could go a long way toward reconciling differences with the 16,000-member Swedish Central Workers' Organization (SAC), with which the IWA has been at odds since the SAC was forced to withdraw from it several years ago over the question of just how much autonomy sections had in adapting to particular national conditions. Such a reconciliation could only benefit the international revolutionary union movement.

For our part, the IWW greets with pleasure every step made in the direction of greater communication and co-operation among the world's revolutionary-unionist currents. At its 43rd Convention, the IWW re-affirmed its long-standing comradely relationship with the IWA. Let's hope that these ties grow stronger, and that the cause of revolutionary unionism will make greater progress in the future.

Mike Hargis

## "You can't scare us..."

### AUSTRALIAN POWER STRIKE CONTINUES

It's been over six months since more than a thousand Queensland power workers were sacked for refusing to sign a no-strike agreement, and hundreds of linesmen are still out on strike in protest. But an on-again/off-again blocking of transport and mail to and from the province (see the September *IW*) has been called off by the Australian Council of Trade Unions following a ruling by the Queensland Industrial Commission that sacked workers should be rehired.

Instead, the Government changed the laws, to make such rulings mere recommendations, and advanced new anti-union legislation outlawing strikes and other types of direct-action campaigns, advocacy of strikes, picketing, and closed shops. Furthermore, unions can now be sued for damages allegedly rising from industrial disputes; the Government has the right to conscript labor for the electricity industry; and defendants are now presumed guilty before the courts and must prove their innocence. In addition, violations of the new laws can result in fines of up to \$250,000 for unions and up to \$50,000 for individuals.

Some 200 people have already been arrested for picketing, and the Government has threatened to sue unions for \$25 million in damages. The ACTU and the Labor Party have sought to contain the conflict, but are relying on the Industrial and Arbitration Commissions instead of organizing workers to use their industrial power.

(information from the *Rebel Worker*)

### EUROPEAN UNIONS REJECT US ECONOMIC MODEL

US officials have conducted a brisk export business to Europe of various prescriptions, notably the trickle-down theory and supply-side doctrine of austerity for the "too-fat" poor. The US message has been that this country's recent job-creation "success" (only 7% unemployment!) comes largely from "low-tech" or "no-tech" service jobs, made possible because of US labor flexibility, mobility, and entrepreneurship (pay cuts, job insecurity, and union busting).

Led by British Prime Minister Thatcher, many Western European governments have cut welfare spending and all manner of social aid in the hope of reducing the record European unemployment of 20 million, or nearly 12% of the labor force, with rates over 15% in Belgium and Ireland. In the face of the apparent US "success" at job creation, and the desertion of their traditional socialist allies in various countries, Europe's once-powerful union movements have been content for years "to keep their

heads down", as one union leader put it, while unemployment climbed and union leadership withered.

Most recently, however, unions have rallied to see the US business model for what it is: a thinly-disguised attempt to roll back the clock on the living and social standards of the European workforce. A recent study by the European Trade Union Institute (a union-backed think tank in Brussels) entitled "Flexibility and Jobs—Myths and Realities" pointed out that the year-long stabilization of US unemployment, far from being a clear result of pay cuts, followed huge public deficits caused by a surge of military spending which European governments could not begin to emulate.

"The so-called American hire-and-fire model, with lots of low-paid jobs and high inequality, may be popular in some circles," remarked one European union official in Brussels. "But it's by no means certain that we should move to a sweatshop economy."

Europe should not move to the sweatshops. Only via closer co-operation between workers in different unions and countries, and via greater efforts to organized non-unionized workers, will European workers be able to avoid the future the boss class has in store for them.

### WARS AND RUMORS OF WAR

WAR: Gwynne Dyer's PBS-TV series, "War", shows that it's lethal to drift along as a system of national states run by people whose status would crumble if there were no threat of war. The merchant class had to assert its interests to end feudalism, and we will have to assert ours to survive this big business of bumping us off. Meanwhile the US gets Japan to exceed its 1% arms limitation while Moscow and Washington maintain continuous communication via two satellites to avoid having a flock of geese trigger World War Three. And arms building has made the US a debtor nation for the first time since 1914: Foreign-held assets in the US exceed American-owned assets abroad by \$32 billion. The AFL-CIO finds this and the big trade deficit winning business support for its campaign to "Buy American". A Saint Louis labor paper goes one better and urges its readers to "Buy Saint Louis". And where does the stuff come from that goes into a Ford?

### HAYMARKET MARTYRS

We remember and We never forget!

IWW Group - Baton Rouge, Louisiana